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Published by ARCHANT KOS MEDIA Telephone: (01303) 817000

IT'S WHAT SUNDAYS ARE ALL ABOUT

No.430 December 19, 2010

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S PAPER

OPPOSITION STIRS OVER DEEP CUTS

Scale of grant reductions alarm councils and unions

By **MARIJKE COX**

WIDESPREAD industrial action could be on the horizon as town halls across Kent feel the effects of budget cuts that are deeper than the national average.

Despite council finance chiefs admitting the 2011/12 cuts were worse than expected, their predictions for the coming weeks are that things could get even worse as reductions continue to come through from the Government.

Leading unions, including Unison and Unite, have responded with plans for a co-ordinated response called Kent – Save our Services, Unions and Community Together, to build mass opposition to the cuts.

Government figures released this week revealed Kent County Council would see a formula grant reduction of 1.82 per cent next year, but Cllr John Simmonds, cabinet member for finance, said the total figure was more around the nine per cent mark – well above the 4.4 per cent national average.

This is because the 1.82 per cent figure does not take into account cuts to separate grants set aside for specific functions.

Cllr Simmonds urged unions to wait for the January budget to see how the authority will deal with the situation, adding that information was still trickling through from the Coalition Government.

"We've lost about nine per cent, but what we've found is that education grants have disappeared – that makes up another £10 million that we've lost – which would push the loss up to about 10 per cent," he said.

"We've got to find £90 million in the next year. I think this is manageable because we have contingency plans in place."

Vulnerable

The amount forms part of the £340m savings needed at KCC over the next four years, where some 1,500 to 1,600 posts will be cut.

Mr Simmonds said the council would ensure key areas such as vulnerable children and adult services would be protected, but admitted there would be cutbacks in other areas although he could not specify where.

"The grant reductions were slightly worse than expected and so we have to look at what we are able to maintain and look at shortfalls we've got," he said.

"We're still deciding how to deal with this. We've always said that if funding is stopped then we stop doing it, but we have to look at what this represents."

Cllr Simmonds said it was not clear which education funding had gone, but hinted it looked as though it was early years intervention grants. Finance chiefs at Medway Council – which must find £50m savings in the next four years – said they were also concerned about the grant reductions but, like KCC, said the Government's figure of 3.57 per cent was not accurate.

Deputy leader Cllr Alan Jarrett said it was closer to 10 per cent. "The situation is very concerning and worse than we predicted," he said. "We will have £4m less than we thought. We will have a budget gap next year of £19.5m."

Cllr Jarrett added that advice from local government secretary Eric Pickles for councils to use cash reserves was not sustainable and "absolutely ludicrous".

"Part of my job is to minimise the risk to frontline services," he said. "We must make sure statutory services are provided and that we have a review of the organisation and administration to make efficiency savings."

Cllr Jarrett said he expected a substantial

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

Life for killers who tore two families apart

SEE INSIDE FOR REPORTS

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Kent grant cuts deeper than average

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

number of job losses on top of the 104 predicted, but would not say exactly how many. He also warned off potential rebellion, stating it would not help the situation.

"How we deal with the situation, that's the challenge. I don't see how unions will change anything."

But a Unison official said members will be meeting regularly and seeking encouragement from community groups in a battle to save jobs and services.

"Our aim is to work to build mass opposition to the cuts within Kent," she said.

"We will be holding public meetings across the county during January and February, arming communities with information to highlight the truth behind the Government's rhetoric and to lobby against the cuts."

Kent's district and borough authorities were also hit with big reductions, with Ashford, Shepway and Thanet seeing the largest losses in its share of funding from the Government.

LOCAL AUTHORITY GRANT REDUCTIONS 2011-12 (%)	
Ashford	**8.9**
Canterbury	6.55
Dartford	**6.25**
Dover	7.05
Gravesham	**7.18**
Maidstone	4.3
Sevenoaks	**4.14**
Shepway	8.33
Swale	**7.86**
Thanet	8.90
Tonbridge & Malling	**4.48**
Tunbridge Wells	5.90

Figures from Department for Communities and Local Government

JP attacks Government's magistrates closure plan

A CONTROVERSIAL decision to close two of Kent's magistrates' courts has been met with fury by a senior JP, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

Chris Stanley, chairman of the Kent Magistrates' Association, said the move was not in line with the Coalition's Big Society notion and accused ministers of failing to take into consideration strong representations made by opponents.

He spoke to KOS Media after the announcement that 93 magistrates' courts – one in Ashford and one in Sittingbourne – and 49 county courts, including Ashford and Gravesend – were being shut down.

The Ministry of Justice hopes to save at least £15 million a year in running costs plus an extra £22m in building maintenance.

But Mr Stanley joined others in voicing his disapproval, stating it would end up creating unforeseen expenses.

"Take Ashford, for example, where there are about 20 solicitors that appear at the magistrates' court working with legal aid clients," he said.

"Now they will have to travel to Folkestone or Canterbury, creating extra expense through payment for their travelling time."

Mr Stanley said one of his primary concerns was for victims and witnesses having to travel longer distances to get to the courts.

"This isn't just about offenders," he said.

"This is about families, witnesses, solicitors and other people involved.

"I'm in favour of justice being run locally, with local solicitors in local courts with local magistrates. Everyone local knows what goes on in their area – this whole change goes against the Government's Big Society idea."

Mr Stanley said strong representations were made by himself, senior judges and others from the justice sector against the plans.

One proposal was to consider shutting Dover Magistrates' instead, where, according to Mr Stanley, the court is underused and Folkestone Magistrates' not too far away.

"It seemed like the decision to close Ashford and Sittingbourne had already been made – it was a foregone conclusion and our representations wouldn't change anything," he said.

Gordon Henderson, MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, had also been campaigning against the closures and raised the subject in the House of Commons.

Speaking after the closure announcement, he said: "I am very disappointed at the decision, which flies in the face of logic and has ignored a mountain of evidence that shows clearly that its closure will bring real hardship to people living in parts of my constituency.

"The delivery of justice will now become a public transport lottery, with journeys from eastern Sheppey to Medway taking at least three hours.

"Ministers insist that their proposals will make the justice system better and more efficient. Such statements simply insult the intelligence of my constituents."

MP's joy over key role for coastguard

DOVER coastguard station will form a key part of a new slimline search and rescue service if radical new proposals get the go-ahead.

The Department for Transport has put forward plans to close more than half the country's coastguard stations and have only three that are operational 24 hours a day.

Staffing levels will also be slashed from 491 to 248, although this will see the number of regular coastguards supporting RNLI volunteers increase from 80 to 105.

The plans will introduce new technology to help integrate the remaining coastguard stations and ensure a quality service is retained. Dover and Deal's Conservative MP Charlie Elphicke said he was "over the moon".

"I have been fighting to ensure the station was protected and it has been – the minister rang to tell me," he said.

"I am over the moon at the news. The Dover Strait is the busiest shipping lane in Europe, then there is the ferry traffic.

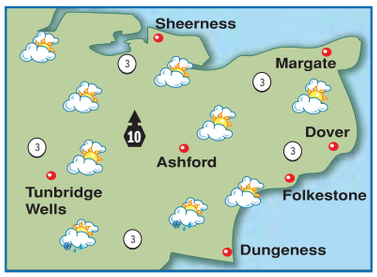
"If, heaven forbid, we do see an accident the coastguards in Dover would be vital when it comes to co-ordinating the rescue. In a shipping disaster, speed saves lives."

Mr Elphicke did not feel the station would be put under too much pressure because of the closures elsewhere.

"Figures show there are about 11,000 people working for the coastguard and some 300 maritime accidents a year, so staff should be able to cope," he said.

"But we could not have afforded to lose the Dover station. Efficiency savings can be made elsewhere."

Kent today



TODAY: Mainly cloudy with outbreaks of rain, sleet and perhaps even snow falling in some places. There will be a brisk southerly wind. Another cold day. Max temp 0-3C (32-37F). **TONIGHT:** Mainly dry with clear spells but cold and frosty with a moderate wind. Min temp -4 to -1C (25-30F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	snow	0	32	**London**	cloudy	2	36
Belfast	snow	2	36	**Liverpool**	cloudy	2	36
Birmingham	snow	1	34	**Manchester**	fair	1	34
B'mouth	snow	3	37	**Newcastle**	snow	1	34
Bristol	sleet	4	39	**Norwich**	cloudy	1	34
Cardiff	showers	3	37	**Oxford**	sleet	2	36
Cork	sleet	3	37	**Southsea**	sleet	5	41
Edinburgh	snow	2	36	**S'hampton**	snow	3	37
Glasgow	cloudy	3	37	**Southport**	cloudy	2	36
Isle of Man	cloudy	4	39	**Swansea**	sleet	4	39
Leeds	cloudy	0	32	**Torquay**	sleet	5	41

Sun & moon

Sunrise	7.58am	Sunset	3.46pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	2.02pm	Moonset	6.09am	3.46pm to 7.59am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)
Dover	09.13	5.9	21.43	6.0	09.54	6.2	22.23	6.3
Margate	10.18	4.2	22.41	4.3	11.02	4.4	23.21	4.5
St Mary's	02.54	5.0	15.14	5.0	03.36	5.2	15.57	5.2

Week ahead

monday Mainly cloudy. max 5C min-4C

tuesday Sunny spells. max 5C min 1C

wednesday Dull with rain. max 4C min 2C

thursday Cloudy but dry. max 7C min 6C

friday Mainly fine. max 4C min 1C

saturday Cold but dry. max 4C min 1C

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Printed by Archant Print.

FEUD: A family's land dispute that led to murder involved, from left to right, Bill Treeby, Billy Treeby, Charity Treeby and George Treeby

Family's life sentence

Treeby brothers found guilty of uncle's murder

By **JOE BILL**
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TWO brothers who murdered their uncle over a land dispute have been sentenced to life in prison.

Billy Treeby Jnr, 30, and George Treeby, 23, formerly of Queen Street, Paddock Wood, will each spend at least 23 years in prison after being found guilty of killing 43-year-old Jack Treeby.

Their mother, Charity Treeby, will serve eight years for the attempted murder of Jack's brother Gary Treeby during the frenzied attack on December 27, 2009.

The sentences come just three days after the brothers' father, Bill Treeby, 50, committed suicide in his cell at Elmley Prison, Sheppey, following the guilty verdict.

During the tragic incident in Quarry Road, Tovil, Jack was run over and killed by a Range Rover driven by members of his family.

Gary Treeby, 40, was shot with a shot gun before being badly beaten with an iron bar.

Maidstone Crown Court was filled with family and friends of both the offenders and the victims while armed police were also on standby.

Judge Andrew Patience told the court of his sympathy to the family following Bill Treeby's death last Sunday, but instructed the jury not to feel anything but proud of the service they have given the court.

He said: "I cannot allow this sympathy to deflect me from my duty.

"The tragic events of the weekend have brought to you the stark reality of your own crimes.

"An aggravating factor in this case is the planning and preparation. You planned your revenge and to seek out Gary and Jack for an attack.

"Checks were made and shotguns were brought with you.

"That night you brought lawlessness and terror to a quiet Maidstone street.

"A shotgun was discharged a number of times, endangering the lives of innocent people who may have been there.

Judge Patience continued: "You then fled like cowards to areas of Kent, Sussex and Hampshire before giving yourselves up.

"Jack was run over repeatedly and left to die, Gary was shot and beaten.

MURDERED: 43-year-old Jack Treeby was run over and killed by a Range Rover

"(That night) a life was needlessly wasted."

During the 10-week trial the jury heard how a family dispute over land and a drunken slanging match in the Harrow Pub, Lidsing, led to the killing of Jack Treeby.

A CCTV camera in Quarry Road captured much of the incident while audio tracks obtained from another camera were also used as evidence to convict the three men of murder.

After sentencing the judge commended the police investigation team for their work.

Det Chief Insp Rob Vinson from Kent Police's Serious Crime Directorate said: "This was a family dispute that erupted into violence leaving one man dead and his brother shot down by members of his own family.

"With the weapons used and the reckless attitude of those involved, we are thankful that no one else was seriously injured.

"I am pleased that a jury found all four guilty of their part in the events of that night and they will be going to prison for a long time."

Billy Treeby Jnr and George Treeby also received 14-year sentences for the attempted murder of Gary Treeby, to run concurrently.

Sorry tail of vet who docked pups

A VET who caused unnecessary suffering to 13 puppies has been ordered to pay a total of £42,700.

David Smith, 60, from Deal, was found guilty of docking the Rottweilers' tales – which has been illegal since 2007 – at the request of the owner of a security firm.

Smith, who works at the Lakeview Veterinary Practice in Folkestone, claimed during a seven-day trial that Rottweilers fell into the docking category because they were traditionally used for hunting and are working dogs.

He was fined £2,000 for carrying out the procedures and £1,300 for causing unnecessary suffering, and was also ordered to pay a staggering £39,400 court costs.

Smith's case will now be referred to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Lorry driver dies in M20 incident

A LORRY driver died after his vehicle careered off the M20 and rolled down an embankment.

The 57-year-old German man was airlifted to hospital following the crash, which took place near J8 (Leeds Castle) at about 8am on Wednesday (December 15), but died later that day.

Anyone with information should call Kent Police on 01622 758538.

UNEMPLOYMENT is on the increase again in Kent after new figures revealed a jobless rise of 167.

According to the Office for National Statistics, the number of people claiming jobseekers' allowance in Kent and Medway stood at 30,343 on November 11.

The biggest increases were in Swale (up 106), Dover (up 77), Thanet (up 75) and Shepway (up 71).

Medway saw a decrease of 51 to 6,001.

Eleven human trafficking suspects arrested in raids

A MAJOR police crackdown on "modern day slavery" in east Kent has resulted in the arrests of 11 people.

Officers from the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate carried out dawn raids on Wednesday as part of a two-year investigation into a criminal network believed to be involved in human trafficking, theft, fraud and money laundering.

Police also rescued 19 victims and took them to a centre in Canterbury where they are being offered help and advice from a number of agencies.

Six of those arrested – all men – are from Thanet, with two men and two women from Canterbury. The final suspect is a man from Surrey.

"These criminals prey on and exploit migrant workers, effectively running a modern-day slavery operation," said Det Chief Insp Andrea Bishop.

"A key part of the work we have done over the last few days is to work with a number of partner agencies to help victims break the grip this gang has on them, and we are giving them all the help and support they need so they can rebuild their lives free from this tyranny."

The Serious Crime Directorate was assisted in the investigation by the Gangmasters Licensing Authority, which was set up to indentify and tackle worker exploitation in the agricultural industry.

Director of strategy Darryl Dixon said: "It is an offence to supply labour without a licence.

"Often overseas workers may not even know they are being exploited. The GLA will therefore determine if they are, and pursue unlicensed activity through to prosecution."

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Campus study casts doubt on Olympic legacy claims

THE 2012 Olympics are likely to fail in creating a new wave of mass participation in sport, claims a scholar from Canterbury Christ Church University.

Professor Mike Weed, who has written a paper on the legacy plan for the London games, says he doubts the event will suddenly inspire those who have never played sport before.

His findings are based on research conducted by the university's Centre for Sport, PE and Activity Research (Spear).

"The plan is likely to provide a lasting legacy for sport," said Prof Weed. "Undoubtedly new facilities and fields are likely to be well used. But they will mostly provide for people who already participate in sport. It's unlikely to encourage people who don't already play sport to do so. Providing facilities for people who already play to play more may be a legitimate policy goal, but we should be clear that people playing more often is not the same as more people playing."

A key part of the Olympic legacy planned by the Government is the launch of a national School Olympics based on the model of the successful Kent School Games. Research collected by Spear on behalf of the Department for Health has shown that there are two phenomena that influence people when it comes to deciding whether to actively participate after watching large-scale sporting events.

The first is the festival effect, where people are inspired by the carnival atmosphere of the Olympics; and the second is the demonstration effect, where the world's top athletes are the source of inspiration.

Prof Weed said: "A demonstration effect can only inspire those who have previously or now currently participate in sport to do so more.

"What it categorically does not do is have any effect whatsoever on those who have never participated in sport."

Sit-in students vow to keep up the pressure

By **MARIJKE COX**
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ANGER over tuition fee increases continues to rumble on as students refuse to back down on protests over Christmas.

It follows weeks of unrest within the higher education sector where students have staged mass protests in response to the Government's move to allow universities to increase fees up to £9,000.

About 200 campaigners are involved in a sit-in at the University of Kent's Senate building in Canterbury, with protesters planning to continue over the Christmas holidays.

Helen Wood, president of the university's union, said students were feeling let down.

She said they were also disappointed their vice-chancellor supported the rise in fees.

Miss Wood said: "We spoke to our constituency MP [Julian Brazier] and he agreed with us but voted with his party.

"We're not stopping the protest. We're going to try to overturn the tuition fee rise and campaign against higher education cuts."

The 22-year-old said students respected Mark Reckless, MP for Rochester and Strood, for voting against the proposals.

Fantastic

Miss Wood said: "It was fantastic to see him follow his values. We have a Medway campus and it was important for him to do this.

"With Tracey Crouch [Chatham and Aylesford MP], it would have been better for her to vote against, but we were still pleased she abstained."

Miss Wood warned of the increased pressures on universities where the next generation of students would demand more as a result of the higher fees.

"They will want more contact time with tutors, better libraries with more books – they will be looking at the whole package," she said.

She also warned of additional pressures faced due to cuts in Government funding.

This was echoed by a lecturers' union, which warned that Canterbury Christ Church was one of 23 universities in the country at high risk due to the combination of increased tuition fees and reduced grants.

According to a study by the University and College Union, 40 per cent of the institution's funding comes from Government, 34 per cent of students are from lower socio-economic backgrounds and only 2.2 per cent of students are from oversees.

The study said the university spends £19.6 million on teaching, 97.6 per cent of which would no longer be paid for if Government proposals go forward.

But a spokesman at Christ Church said no institution could predict its future financial position until the sector had absolute clarity on the fee policy and until the Government's higher education White Paper is published.

Tuition fee plans were voted through last week despite mass protests in Westminster meaning that from 2012 universities will be able to raise their charges to as much as £9,000 a year. The bill also included changes to the payback threshold, where students won't have to pay anything back until they earn £21,000 – a rise from the current £15,000.

One of Kent's newest MPs, Mark Reckless (Con), rebelled against his own party, saying he could not justify supporting the motion.

He said: "I was one of the 302 who voted against. Five other Conservative and 21 Liberal Democrat colleagues joined me in the 'No' lobby."

His Medway colleague Ms Crouch, who won the Chatham and Aylesford seat in May, chose to abstain. She said although she disagreed with the £9,000 cap, she chose to abstain rather than vote against due to her support of other new measures being introduced, such as the £21,000 threshold.

Mr Reckless, however, said he found it difficult to justify the suddenness of the move where one student may be required to pay £3,000, and another, just a year later, expected to pay two or three times more.

Justify

"I also believe we should make decisions and whenever possible try and explain those likely decisions before an election, rather than use a report from someone who is not elected, however distinguished, to justify a decision [the Browne Report].

"I was impressed by the students who put their case to me on this issue. They asked me why they should have to pay so much when Welsh and Scottish and in many cases EU students did not have to pay at all.

"I then showed David Willetts, the universities minister, statistics showing that 46 per cent of EU students due to repay a loan from the British taxpayer were in default.

"I have also asked ministers how they can justify an 80 per cent decrease in grant to universities in the context of a 60 per cent increase in our net payments to the EU.

"I cannot justify it and voted accordingly."

Picture: BILLY H

FIGHTBACK: The tuition fee protests will go on, Kent students have vowed

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Cliff leap tragedy

A STUDENT jumped off a cliff at a notorious suicide spot after twice running towards the edge, an inquest concluded.

James Handley, 24, from Folkestone, fell 300ft to his death at Beachy Head, East Sussex, in September, last year.

The inquest heard Mr Handley had been sectioned under the Mental Health Act having suffered a history of related problems.

East Sussex coroner Alan Craze said Mr Handley took his own life while the balance of his mind was disturbed.

A BENEFITS cheat has been prosecuted after fiddling nearly £5,000. Rachel Killington, 29, from Sittingbourne, was sentenced to 80 hours' community service after continuing to claim income support as a single person despite living with her partner. The fraud took place between March, 2008, and July, 2009.

A SURVEY has shown how vital Kent's farmland is to providing habitat for birds and identified species under threat.

The Volunteer and Farmer Alliance study was carried out on 11 farms across the county, covering 1,000 hectares. The most common birds were chaffinches and blackbirds, while the corn bunting and grey partridge were in short supply.

The RSPB said maps produced from the survey will aid targeted conservation measures.

THE INTERVIEW

BY TOM BETTS

The giving can't stop when the going gets tough

IT'S been a tough year for charities – with recession and economic storms taking their toll – but not the disaster many had feared.

For Stephen Elsden, chief executive of Tunbridge Wells-based charity Compaid, 2010 didn't go as badly as he thought it might.

He said: "The year was pretty good in terms of voluntary income but we've had to work very hard to achieve that.

"It certainly is taking a lot more work to get that money coming in, much more so than a few years ago.

Birthday

"We get about 20 per cent of our income through fund-raising and voluntary income, but it takes more effort to get events off the ground.

"We did have to work terribly hard in that respect right through the year, but we've had some fine support from businesses and we're hoping to attract more company support next year so we can put on some events to mark the birthday in style."

The charity, which provides computer skills training for people with disabilities, and the elderly and disabled with transport options, marks its 25th anniversary next year.

Stephen said: "We want to celebrate in style and attract more support from the community.

"We support people with a range of disabilities. A number of them have head injuries, which means they may have memory problems and have lost some of the skills they might have already acquired. We enable them to relearn those and record how they are getting on. The ability to use computers is becoming increasingly important, of course.

"The Government has made it clear that more and more important services will be dealt with online, so if you are not online and don't know your way around that, then you're going to be almost a second-class citizen.

"Disabled people are marginalised in lots of areas already, so it's important for them to have those skills so they are not further left out.

"The transport services we provide really come into their own at this time of year, as we help people get out and about to get their Christmas shopping, see the pantomimes and seasonal lights and all that kind of thing. It's important to them. A lot of our service users are also using computers to design cards and gifts for friends and our work is put to practical use at this time of year."

Compaid is staffed by an assortment of full-time, part-time and voluntary workers.

Stephen said: "They are all fantastic and so vital. The 40 volunteers carry out tasks for us such as driving minibuses, things like that, and they are stars we are so thankful to.

"But our 25 full-time people and eight part-time workers are just as good. It's a real team effort."

Rewarding

Stephen, 42, joined Compaid two years ago, after working for a national disability charity in London.

He says the rewarding thing about the job is seeing the impact of the work on those it is helping.

He said: "That might entail getting some great feedback from those people we help or their families. Every day I hear great things from those we help and that makes you realise how important the work we do is."

Find out more about Compaid at www.compaidtrust.org.uk.

STEPHEN ELSDEN: Of Tunbridge Wells-based Compaid

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Successful first year for HS1 despite complaints

IT WAS hailed as the start of a new generation of travel, with commuting times to the City slashed and passengers travelling in state-of-the-art trains, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

And with a survey showing more than 95 per cent of passengers are satisfied with the HS1 high-speed service, rail bosses met this week to celebrate a successful first year.

But since its formal launch 12 months ago it has failed to please everyone, despite figures showing a rise in the number of people using the rail network since its introduction.

Commuters in areas such as Ashford, where journey times have been cut from 80 minutes to 37 minutes, and Ebbsfleet, where passengers can reach London St Pancras in 17 minutes, have welcomed the Javelin trains which can reach speeds of up to 140mph.

But those travelling on the north Kent line or from the Thanet coast feel they have been left in the cold with a reduced, overcrowded classic service and an expensive high-speed train that is unable to travel at its quickest until it reaches Ebbsfleet.

Rail watchdog Passenger Focus called it a "game of unequal halves".

Bosses at Southeastern, however, are celebrating the anniversary and marked the milestone with figures showing a 16 per cent increase in the number of people opting to travel by rail.

The company also revealed that more than seven million high-speed passenger journeys had been made in the past 12 months with stations including Ashford, Canterbury, Folkestone and Dover Priory seeing well above 50 per cent of all journeys to London using the service.

ON THE UP: HS1 celebrates its first birthday

Managing director Charles Horton said: "We are pleased with how the number of people using the high-speed service has grown and that the independent Passenger Focus satisfaction survey showed that 95 per cent of people think it is good or very good.

"The overall success of the service is testament to the strong industry partnership working with Hitachi High Speed One and Network Rail. The first year has been very encouraging and we are looking forward to more and more people discovering the benefits of travelling by high speed."

Passenger Focus' Kent manager Tunde Olatunji said the service had been a success and transformational for the future of Kent's train travel, but admitted for some parts of the county this was not the case.

"There is a feeling the high-speed timetable has been achieved at the expense of the east Kent service via the Medway towns," he said.

"There has been a reduction in the level of service people used to enjoy and people are finding it slower. In terms of a solution it's very difficult. Southeastern can't reinstate the same service as before from these stations as the high speed would then not be able to run.

"From our point of view there is a need and we will continue to talk to Southeastern about what they may be able to do to mitigate the situation."

Senior backbencher Roger Gale, MP for Thanet North, has been tirelessly campaigning to improve services from his constituency.

He has come out publically saying he will not back a franchise renewal with Southeastern when it comes up in 2014.

"We are paying far too much for a service that is not good," he said.

"People from east Kent don't use it and so they instead have to travel like cattle on the reduced classic service."

Dover and Deal MP Charlie Elphicke has been campaigning to have high-speed services running from Deal, one of a number of Kent stations to miss out on the facility.

"I'm cautiously optimistic that next year we'll see them stop in Deal. I hope on the second anniversary this will be the case," he said.

Stowaways bagged

FOUR would-be illegal immigrants were caught hiding inside a lorry-load of potatoes bound for Westerham, near Sevenoaks.

The men, all Iranians, were found at the port of Calais on Thursday, December 9, when customs officers spotted the vehicle's trailer was not secure.

The stowaways were handed over to the French border police and the vehicle was allowed to continue onto its destination.

However, the Romanian driver and the haulage company now each face a potential fine of up to £2,000 per person if they are unable to prove they took steps to secure the vehicle.

Last year the UK Border Agency stopped more than 29,000 individual attempts to cross the English Channel illegally and searched more than one million freight vehicles.

UCA prof to retire

THE Vice-Chancellor of the University for the Creative Arts has announced her retirement.

Professor Elaine Thomas joined the Surrey Institute of Art and Design – which later merged with its Kent equivalent to form UCA – almost exactly 10 years ago.

She will leave her post at the end of the month.

The UCA board of governors has appointed a search committee to begin the process of appointing a successor.

Suspect gets bailed

ANOTHER man from Ashford has been arrested in connection with the death of Sussex farmer Julian Gardner.

The 37-year-old was detained on Friday, December 10, and taken to Eastbourne to be interviewed by police.

He has been bailed until January 27.

Five of the eight suspects are from Ashford, with the others from Tunbridge Wells, Sandhurst and North Wales.

Youths' party bash

A FACEBOOK party was closed down by police after more than 100 youngsters caused trouble outside.

They smashed bottles and urinated around Canterbury's Chantry Club after being turned away from the venue, which already had 200 people inside.

Police brought an early end to the bash at about 8.45pm on Friday, December 10.

Insp Terry Chuter said: "Putting it openly on Facebook was incredibly naïve."

Widdy's blooming

FORMER Maidstone MP Ann Widdecombe has adopted the word 'clematis' for £15.

The Strictly Come Dancing star made her choice as part of the Adopt a Word scheme, which helps raise funds for the children's speech charity I CAN.

Ms Widdecombe said: "I've chosen clematis as a tribute to my novel The Clematis Tree, which I wrote with my own love of language."

Visit www.adoptaword.com for more information.

Confidence builder

DISABLED youngsters have been invited to attend a four-day break aimed at helping them to live independently.

The Whizz Kidz Camp is open to all children aged 13 and above who have physical disabilities and attend mainstream schools in Kent.

Held from February 22-25, the break aims to build confidence in young people through sessions including cookery, drama and music.

Call 020 7798 6125 for more information.

MEMBERS of the gay and lesbian community are invited to discuss their favourite novels at an event in February. The Pride in Canterbury social evening takes place at Canterbury Library, at 7.45pm on February 8. Call 01227 463608 for more information.

Argument over dead daughter behind frenzied knife attack

Life for killer who stabbed her sister 27 times in field

A WOMEN who stabbed her sister 27 times in a field in Chartham, near Canterbury, has been sentenced to life in prison for murder, ***writes Ian Read and Jenny Armstrong***.

Phoebe Barton will serve a minimum of 13 years after a judge told her she must bear responsibility for the fatal attack, despite the tragic circumstances leading up to the killing.

Villagers were shocked after dog-walkers found the body of Karen Barton, 51, in a field near a footpath on Sunday, May 9, this year.

Phoebe Barton, then 49, went missing after the frenzied attack, prompting a massive police manhunt using dogs, helicopters and divers in the River Stour.

She was found four days later walking along a road in the nearby village of Chilham because she had, by her own admission, run out of food, drink and tobacco.

Phoebe Barton denied murdering her sister, but admitted killing her and pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

Judge Jeremy Carey said: "Karen Barton did absolutely nothing to provoke this attack. She had been a devoted sister to you, although you never appreciated it. She was just a good person and you attacked her in a drunken rage.

"You resorted to alcohol on a daily basis after the death of your daughter. We don't know what the spark was that lit the flame of your fury, but it was a small one that had devastating consequences for you, her and the whole Barton family.

"This is not a normal case and that has to be borne in mind. This killing had all the hallmarks of a domestic dispute.

"I have no doubt in the few seconds you stabbed Karen you intended to kill her. You must take responsibility for what you did."

'VIOLENT TRAGEDY': Phoebe Barton (left) who murdered her older sister Karen (right)

The jury heard how deeply the death of Phoebe's only daughter, Rachel, in a drink-drive smash had affected her, and how her behaviour became increasingly erratic in the weeks leading up to the first anniversary of her death, on May 27.

Sequence

Phoebe had burned her daughter's possessions, including a car, and had given up the lease on the council flat she shared with her sister, causing arguments between the pair. She also had begun drinking heavily since Rachel's death.

On the night she killed Karen, the pair had gone for a walk in the nearby field. They began arguing after Karen suggested it was time for Phoebe to "get over" Rachel's death.

Prosecutor Jonathon Higgs, summing up, said: "Would a reasonable person have pushed her sister to the ground, jumped on her and stabbed her 27 times?

"However much she regrets it now, she intended to do it at the time. This is a tragic case – and who wants Phoebe Barton to be found guilty of murder?

"But the law is the law, and what happened was murder."

Defending, Christopher Sutton-Mattocks argued that Phoebe Barton had diminished responsibility when she killed her sister. He said Phoebe had to identify her own daughter's body at the scene of the road crash.

He said: "There is no question Rachel's death started the sequence of events that led to the destruction of this family and turned a loving mother into a self-confessed killer.

"The death of a child is something so shocking and so ghastly none of us can truly comprehend it unless we have gone through it ourselves.

"The evidence for an abnormal bereavement reaction is clear. By any measure this was a lady whose mind was disturbed.

"This case, by any standards, is an appalling, violent tragedy. Every day, Phoebe Barton is going to have to wake up remembering what she has done."

"My husband and I separated last year. I was at a complete loss to know what to do. Whitehead Monckton were very caring and were able to help me arrange everything without us going to court. They also sorted out the mortgage and made sure I had a new will."

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All Afghani airlines banned from EU after Manston skid

DANGEROUS flying at Manston airport has triggered an EU-wide ban on all Afghani registered airlines, ***writes Florence Tennent.***

On Wednesday, August 11, a DC8 Kam Air plane skidded its tail on the runway and the grass surface beyond during take-off.

Manston chief executive Charles Buchanan said: "The flight scraped its tail as it took off. It was reported to the pilot and authorities, but the aircraft chose to continue on its journey.

"I believe it was a freight service travelling to the Azores and ultimately Argentina."

Following investigations into the incident the UK imposed a national ban on the airline on September 2.

Two weeks later Austrian authorities followed suit, having carried out their own inspection of Kam Air aircraft and found a significant number of serious safety deficiencies.

Members of the airline and Afghani authorities met with the European commission in October and it was concluded the aircraft had been introduced "without adequate management oversight and without any adequate training given to the crews" who had "yet to complete the relevant training even though the aircraft continued to be used for international commercial flights".

DC8 aircraft were last manufactured in 1972.

On November 22, the EU issued a blanket ban on operations by Kam Air and all aircraft carriers registered in Afghanistan.

Mr Buchanan said: "This airline was not a regular user of Manston. As far as I'm aware it was the first time they'd landed here.

"Airlines have to be licensed to operate, but as long as they are certified we do not have the skills or the authority to carry out checks."

The incident is under investigation by the Air Accidents Investigation Branch which has yet to publish its findings.

Malcolm Kirkaldie, a member of Manston Airport Group, said: "It is a cause for concern that this wasn't raised at our recent meeting with the airport and there was no mention of it in the statistics given out.

"This underpins our group's stance that we need an environmental impact assessment pretty darn quick, and our MPs should be looking at strengthening the system which hands out permits like confetti."

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Assistant Chief Constable will move up the ranks

KENT Police has promoted Assistant Chief Constable Alan Pughsley to the rank of temporary Deputy Chief Constable.

The move follows former deputy Adrian Leppard's appointment as the new Police Commissioner for the City of London.

ACC Pughsley will step into his new role from January 1 and will remain in place until a permanent replacement is named next spring.

He said: "I feel hugely privileged to be offered this fantastic opportunity and am greatly looking forward to leading and helping the force through challenging but exciting times.

"During my time in Kent Police I have seen first-hand the absolute professionalism, dedication and commitment portrayed by our officers and staff.

"I look forward to working closely with everyone in the force to sustain and improve a quality policing service."

PROMOTION: ACC Alan Pughsley will become deputy in the New Year

ACC Pughsley joined Kent Police last year having previously worked in Surrey and twice in the Met.

One of his biggest accomplishments thus far has been his work in setting up the Kent and Essex serious crime directorate, which focuses on murder, rape, kidnapping, drug-dealing and burglary.

Kent Police Authority chairwoman Ann Barnes said: "All the candidates who went through the interview process were all very able.

"However, ACC Pughsley impressed the panel the most with his skills, experience and enthusiasm.

"The authority is confident his appointment will be a great asset to Kent Police."

PC cleared of crash death

A MET Police officer involved in a head-on car crash which killed a young mother was today cleared of causing her death by dangerous driving.

PC Nigel Brown, 47, had been driving an unmarked Skoda Octavia which collided with a Renault Megane being driven by Felicity Austin, 29, on the A21 in Pembury in May last year.

During his trial at Maidstone Crown Court he told the jury there was nothing that he could have done to avoid the crash which took the life of the mother-of-three.

The jury accepted his account and cleared him on Tuesday of causing the death of the nursery worker, from Hadlow, by dangerous driving.

FASHION icon Karen Millen returned home to Kent to help launch the new flagship store of a Maidstone hairdresser.

More than 200 fans crammed into the new DooDas salon in Bank Street, which is owned by David Worthy and Jez Hawkins.

Millen said: "As a local girl myself, I am really pleased to be opening this lovely salon for local people to use."

"My father had a stroke recently. Whitehead Monckton helped me sell his home so he could move in to a care home and sort out payment of his care costs with minimal fuss. They also made sure his finances are now protected for his ongoing benefit."

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ICONIC: Australia boasts one of the most famous ports in the world

Dover port plans are inspiration for Down Under

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A LEADING Australian advisor who helped co-ordinate the Sydney Olympics has vowed to use Dover's people's port concept as an example in his home country.

Michael Deegan, who as chief executive of Infrastructure Australia is in charge of 42 ports on the Australian coast, was so impressed with the community stakeholder proposal he pledged to put the idea forward to his counterparts when he returned home.

He was shown plans by Neil Wiggins, chairman of the Dover People's Port Trust, who secured a meeting with the Australian government advisor.

People's Port

Mr Wiggins said: "Mr Deegan was in north Europe and I managed to get him over to Dover on a ferry to show him our ideas.

"His crossing was good, but when he arrived at the port he wasn't pleased as all the lights were off and no one was there.

"That only made him more supportive and keen for the people's port plans to go forward.

"He was very impressed with our ideas and is taking them back to Australia."

Mr Wiggins said the people's port was a new paradigm which would be picked up by the international community.

Charlie Elphicke, MP for Dover and Deal, who drew up plans as an alternative to privatisation, said he was excited that the international community had taken notice.

"I'm pleased the idea of the community taking over the port is capturing people's imaginations," he said.

"It's not just a case of Britain letting the world know, but Dover and Britain showing the whole world how to do things."

Wartime singer and forces sweetheart Dame Vera Lynn is one of the high profile people backing the £400 million bid to purchase the publically-owned port.

She joined Mr Elphicke, the People's Port team and ferry operators – which are in support of the idea – for the launch of the bid in October.

At the launch Dover's MP said he hoped the community port would become a landmark of the Prime Minister's Big Society scheme. He said: "The gateway to the nation and the white cliffs should be forever England. We don't want Dover sold off to the French or whoever. They wouldn't sell Stonehenge would they?

"We the people are launching a bid that our community should own and run the port for the community and for the national interest."

The People's Port would be a mass membership community trust with anyone living in the Dover district able to become a member for £10. Funds in excess of Dover residents' contributions would be raised from City of London institutions.

A proposal has been made to government to take the project to the next stage.

It comes in response to privatisation plans which were announced by Dover Harbour Board last January.

A government document published last year revealed the Port of Dover was the "furthest advanced" in developing its bid to be independent, with its turnover of £60.8m topping a table of six eligible ports.

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ACTION: New film Ironclad is set in 1215

£20 million Hollywood epic casts Kent castle in star role

(…but director actually shoots film in Wales!)

A MULTI-MILLION pound epic action movie about the siege of Rochester Castle is set to be released next year, ***writes Nick Ames***.

Ironclad tells the story of a group of Templar Knights who defended the historic fortress against the army of tyrannical King John in 1215.

However, no Medway locations were used for the £20 million production – it was shot entirely in Wales.

But the castle is keen to show off its new found fame – a poster in the guardhouse bears the slogan 'From Rochester to Hollywood'.

A movie insider said: "Minotaur director Jonathan English is directing from a script he co-wrote with Erick Kastel. The setting is Rochester Castle, where King John attempted to put down part of a rebellious baron uprising.

"It came after the signing of the Magna Carta, which limited John's power. He signed, but after the barons who forced the signature left London, John – the villainous king in many Robin Hood tales and younger brother of Richard the Lionheart – renounced the document, provoking a civil war now called the First Baron's War.

"The barons had already lost confidence in him after he lost territory in France and gave over some control of English land to the Pope.

TRUE SETTING: Rochester Castle wasn't used in movie about the seige

"The siege of Rochester was an important part in the war as the castle controlled the route to London and the coast."

Resident Evil actor James Purefoy plays the lead knight – called Marshall in the script.

Paul Giamatti – who started his career in Saving Private Ryan – plays the king while Maidstone-born Mackenzie Crook, Derek Jacobi, Jason Flemyng and Brian Cox also have roles. Brokeback Mountain star Kate Mara has the lead female part as Lady Isabel.

Producer Rick Benattar has stated the movie – subtitled 'Blood Will Run' – will be as historically accurate as possible and viewers will feel as if they are in the heart of the battle.

The producers hope it will emulate the success of the recent Ridley Scott Robin Hood film and is one of the most expensive UK productions of recent years.

During the siege a mine was dug beneath the castle towers with the roof supported by wooden props, which were then set alight using pig fat.

The ensuing blaze caused the south east tower of the keep to collapse. The rebels withdrew behind the keep's cross-wall, but still managed to hold out. A few were allowed to leave, but on John's orders had their hands and feet cut off as an example.

The castle was taken on November 30, due to starvation and not by force of arms.

A model of the siege is on display in Rochester's museum and to see it and how the battle unfolded go to www.your kenttv.co.uk – search 'King John siege'.

'Indescribably wicked' rapist admits attack on 12-year-old

A RAPIST who targeted a schoolboy and two elderly women in "indescribably wicked" attacks has been jailed for a minimum of 12 years.

Gurjinder Narman, 22, from Strood, near Rochester, admitted charges of rape of a child under the age of 13, inciting a child to engage in sexual behaviour, and trespassing with the intent to commit sexual offences.

The latter charge relates to attacks on two elderly women who opened their doors to Narman only to be forced back into their homes and assaulted, in June and October last year.

Det Chief Insp Lee Whitehead said: "Narman is a serious sexual predator and poses a significant risk particularly to children, the elderly and the vulnerable. Had an indeterminate sentence not been imposed then the judge confirmed he would have been given a determinate sentence of 24 years in prison."

'GRAVE RISK': Gurjinder Narman

Narman was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court last week, when Judge Andrew Patience described the offences committed as "cruel and indescribably wicked".

He added that the defendant presented a "very grave risk" of committing further serious offences in the future.

Narman was also given a sexual offences prevention order for life and will not be allowed to be alone with anyone under the age of 16 without supervision. He will also not be allowed to work in any residential or care home, and will be added to the sex offenders' register.

DCI Whitehead added: "These are extremely serious charges and we are pleased the judge has recognised Narman as a dangerous offender.

"Hopefully this can act as some form of closure for the victims of these two unprovoked attacks."

Warm thanks for life-saving rescue

A LORRY driver who collapsed while walking home from work in the snow has thanked the people who saved his life.

Mike Ashton, from Kingsdown, near Sittingbourne, fell unconscious during the freezing cold weather of Saturday, December 4, and was discovered by dog-walker Nicola Kelly at an orchard in Rodmersham.

The woman dialled 999 and the first two officers on the scene – PC Nicki Hunt and PCSO Matthew Link – brought Mr Ashton round by wrapping him in blankets and rubbing his arms and legs.

Mr Ashton met all three at Sittingbourne police station on Monday.

"I think I owe my life to them," he said. "If it had not been for Nicola I would probably still be there now.

"When the two officers arrived they knew exactly what to do to save my life. How can I ever thank them enough?"

Both PCSO Link and PC Hunt have been nominated for area commander's awards for their efforts.

Uni's green Xmas

STUDENTS at the University of Kent have been encouraged to car-share this Christmas to reduce their festive carbon footprint.

By logging onto www.studentcarshare.com, academics will be able to offer lifts or search for someone who is happy to do the same.

Travel plan co-ordinator Teresa Curteis said the university had also partnered with other institutions in Kent to increase the chances of being able to find someone.

She added: "Whether travelling home for the holidays or to and from campus during term time, the site helps participants to reduce travel costs while meeting new people and making new friends."

New DVD captures historic appeal of Channel crossings

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

WHETHER it's by ferry, aeroplane or inflatable kangaroo, the English Channel has for many years presented a challenge to the most adventurous of people.

The historic waterway was once seen as the perfect obstacle for those hoping to solve the mystery of sustained flight, and with just 21 miles separating Dover and Calais it remains an achievable distance for swimmers, pedaloriders and rocket pack-wearers the world over.

Intrigued by the countless ingenious ways people have come up with in an attempt to enter the record books, Kent-based film-maker Phil Heath has produced a DVD containing archive footage of some of the more memorable.

Fascinated

"Over the years I've filmed many attempts to cross the Channel but I've also bought private footage from others, some of which has never been seen before," said the former BBC, ITV and Sky employee.

"As I researched some of the thousands of attempts I became fascinated with how big a challenge the Channel has been over the centuries, and why it continues to be to this day."

Entitled 'Challenging the English Channel', the DVD – produced at Heathwood Studios in Dover – also charts the history of the hovercraft and the Channel Tunnel.

It reveals how almost 200 years before the existing Chunnel opened in 1994, the French mining engineer Albert Mathieu put forward proposals to send horse-drawn coaches beneath the waves with giant chimneys providing the oxygen from above.

The DVD also features rare footage of the world's first car ferry in 1928, showing how the vehicles were precariously loaded by crane.

But whether you're as fast a swimmer as record-holder Petar Stoychev (6hr 57m) or as slow as Tonbridge resident Jackie Cobell (28hrs 44m), chances are you've wondered what it would be like to have a go at tackling the Channel.

CHALLENGE: DVD shows footage, never before seen, of some of the earliest attempts to cross the Channel

And as the documentary reveals, there have been plenty of weird and wonderful ways in which people have attempted to do so.

"Many people are unaware that international swimming races were held across our short stretch of water, with huge prizes on offer to the winners," added Mr Heath.

"There were some Indian swimmers who were given houses back in their home country because of the prestige they brought."

Mr Heath worked on the DVD with former ITV picture editor Keith Corder, from Maidstone, who has previously worked on films created at the world-famous Pinewood Studios in Buckinghamshire.

The finished article is now available – priced £11.99 – from Dover Museum or online at www.heathwoodstudios.com.

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Career advice cuts 'kick ladder away' from youth

A DECISION to cut £4.8 million from the budget of Kent's career guidance service has been described as "devastating" and "sickening".

Last week Connexions – which also offers advice to young people on subjects including health and finance – announced up to 60 jobs are at risk due to a 19.5 per cent funding reduction agreed with Kent County Council.

Devastating

Supporters of the service say the cuts will harm its ability to help the county's youngsters, who they say have been badly let down by the Coalition Government.

"This is another example of the rich and privileged cabinet kicking the ladder away," said Unison regional organiser Simon Bolton.

"What with the tuition fees increase and the scrapping of the Educational Maintenance Allowance, they're just making sure that average children and young people won't have a chance in life anymore.

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

"The Connexions cut is going to have a pretty devastating impact because there won't be much of a service left. It's a sickener really."

The Kent branch of Connexions has regional offices in 11 towns throughout the county and employs more than 300 personal advisers.

A consultation process has now begun with a view to a 17 per cent reduction in staff numbers, which will be achieved through a phased approach over the next eight months.

The £4.8m reduction – which brings the organisation's budget for the next two years down to about £20m – is significantly more than the £2m cut predicted before the Comprehensive Spending Review was published in October.

"This is another attack by an out-of-touch government that doesn't understand the needs of young people," said 17-year-old Kent Youth County Council chairman Dara Farrell.

"Connexions has had great success in finding employment for young people and in providing them with relevant skills to keep that employment.

"The Government talks about not wanting so many people on benefits but how are they supposed to find work when services like Connexions are being taken away?"

Challenging

KCC cabinet member for children, families and education – Cllr Sarah Hohler – said: "As with every local authority, we face reduced funding over the coming years.

"These are challenging times and it is vital we do things differently and make every penny count. We have reached an agreement with Connexions Kent following detailed negotiations.

"The organisation has a strong track record of making a positive difference to Kent's young people and I am confident this will continue.

"Connexions Kent has started a period of consultation as to how it will operate in the future, such as reconsidering where services are delivered and a greater use of internet to provide advice and information.

"No changes will take place until later in the New Year. They are determined to minimise any impact on frontline services and to keep focusing on offering the best support to young people."

Man jailed for child porn possession

A PAEDOPHILE has been jailed for more than three years after being caught with more than 40,000 images of child porn on his computer.

Mark Furness, 40, from Maidstone, also had more than 100 hours' worth of movies on his hard drive, some of which were described by a judge as some of the worst he had ever seen.

He pleaded guilty to 21 counts of possessing and distributing indecent images, and was last week jailed for three years and three months.

Det Con Mike Brown said: "Furness initially presented as a pleasant and respectable individual. It became very apparent, however, that he led a secret life where the appalling rape of children and the sharing of vile images of abuse with others was acceptable."

Serial killer victims' memorial delayed

A MEMORIAL service to mark the opening of a commemorative garden for the victims of serial killer Peter Tobin has been postponed.

The bodies of Vicky Hamilton, 15, and Dinah McNicol, 18, were found at Tobin's former home in Margate in November 2007.

A memorial garden was due to be opened in the grounds of Holy Trinity Church, Margate, on Thursday, December 9.

However, due to the heavy snow in Scotland where Ms Hamilton's father lives, the service has been postponed until the New Year.

FIREFIGHTERS and police officers squared off against each other in a series of charity boxing matches.

The night, held at Liquid nightclub in Maidstone, was in aid of the Help For Heroes charity, with the fighters managing to raise £5,000.

The police team took the title after winning nine bouts to the firefighters' eight.

Large scale safety operation to protect Dartford lizards

A HUNDRED lizards have been moved to safety after being caught up in an upgrade of a Dartford sewage works.

The viviparous or common species were discovered as Thames Water prepared the Long Reach site for a £40 million overhaul designed to improve water quality in the Thames.

"We captured them in the summer by laying roofing felt near their old home," said the firm's ecologist Claudia Innes.

"A wildlife specialist then captured them during the early hours of the morning when their energy levels are at their lowest and they are most docile.

"The lizards are doing well in their new home, which we made out of logs and soil left over from the construction works.

"We have also protected them with a reptile fence until the project is complete in 2012."

SAFE: 100 Viviparous lizards have been moved to protect them during sewage works

The upgrade of Long Reach is part of a £675m programme to modernise and extend London's five major sewage treatment works to increase the amount of sewage each site can treat and to improve the standards to which it is treated.

So far about 35,000 tonnes of earth have been moved at Long Reach to create space for the new equipment.

Looking for ideas this Christmas?

See this weeks Kentish Christmas feature inside Review

KENT ON SATURDAY
KENT ON SUNDAY

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Tonga's finest begin Afghan tour in Kent

TROOPS from the tiny Pacific island of Tonga have been training in Kent before heading off for Afghanistan.

They will be deployed at the British Army base Camp Bastion, in Helmand Province, after completing their training on the ranges at Hythe and Lydd.

The soldiers are famous for their equivalent to the New Zealand Haka – called the Sipi Tau – a war-dance which shows their fighting spirit.

The move comes after Britain asked the Tongan government for assistance, with about 60 soldiers being sent into action.

Under the deal, the British Army will cover the cost of the deployment and Tongans will serve as part of the British Armed Forces.

Brigadier Tauaika 'Uta'atu, the Tongan defence services commander, said: "This is an invitation from the British Army who saw our soldiers work in Iraq and the then-Prime Minister Gordon Brown wrote to our prime minister and asked for support. We are honoured to be a part of this."

Report highlights poor medical provision for asylum detainees

DOCTORS are being urged to come forward and help treat detainees held at an immigration centre after a report found health provision lacking.

Kent Refugee Help held a training day in Canterbury and invited medical workers and members of the public to attend in a bid to increase voluntary health support at the Dover Immigration Removal Centre.

According to a report by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, responses to Home Office rules that detainees suffering serious conditions should not be locked up were "sporadic".

The paper also stated the health facility at the centre needed to be expanded and that staff should be trained to recognise and treat signs of trauma and torture.

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

Sue Powell, a trustee of Kent Refugee Help, said detainees should be able to have access to a second opinion from an independent doctor and those suffering serious trauma should not be locked up.

Suicidal

She added: "There was a case where a detainee was out on bail, and despite being scrupulous in reporting to the authorities he was rearrested prior to being deported.

"He was in the removal centre for quite some time. He had some psychiatric problems, but not allowed his medication. The most they would give him was an aspirin.

"I was extremely worried about him. I would call him sometimes twice a day.

"He then admitted he had been tempted to take his own life. I think this could become more common, with detainees becoming suicidal."

The charity stated that detainees at the centre, where there are 316 men, reported having difficulty accessing primary health care and hospital treatment.

Workers from Kent Refugee Help also said despite Home Office rules that people with serious illnesses – psychological and physical – and those who have been tortured should not be detained, there were many detainees with severe medical conditions still locked up.

A former detainee, who asked not to be named, told KoS that when he was at the centre he saw a lot of people with mental health problems.

"They were all put in one area as they were unpredictable," he said.

"Anyone with mental health should not be detained like that."

"One person had a broken leg and he was in a cast. It was meant to get checked, but it wasn't and he had the cast on too long," he said.

"Then he was meant to have physiotherapy, but there was not enough staff to do it with him. His leg was very bad."

He added: "The Home Office is saying one thing, but not doing it. When I was in the centre there were people there who were really sick."

UK Border Agency spokesman Bob Evans said all detainees were seen by a nurse within two hours of arrival.

He added: "Healthcare professionals are required to report cases where it is considered that a person's health is being affected by continued detention."

MP fights for couples hit by cuts to IVF treatment

Parliamentary group a 'voice' for wannabe parents

By STEVE KNIGHT
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INFERTILE couples have won parliamentary support in their attempts to receive IVF treatment currently suspended by health trusts in Kent.

Both NHS Medway and NHS West Kent have issued winter bans on GP referrals for the procedure, which is one of a few options available to wannabe parents who are unable to conceive naturally.

However, Dartford MP Gareth Johnson says IVF is a "medical need" and has set up an all-party parliamentary group to fight the corner of those affected.

"There is no voice for infertile couples within Parliament and I hope to have the Secretary of State for Health (Andrew Lansley) at our inaugural meeting," he said.

"This is an important issue, as the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (Nice) – the body that oversees the purchase of treatments – has stated that infertile couples should have three courses of treatment, but in some areas it is a postcode lottery.

"Primary care trusts (PCTs) in Kent have decreed that to save money they are suspending the funding of such a treatment. I disagree with these decisions, and am pleased Mr Lansley has urged PCTs to reconsider.

"I am pleased the Government recognises the significant distress and impact that infertility has on people's lives and that it should be treated as a medical need."

Mr Johnson said the new IVF group will take evidence from interested parties and act on its findings and considerations when voting in Parliament or amending legislation.

It will also act as a mouthpiece whenever the issue is raised, he added, and will apply pressure on the Department of Health and local PCTs when needed.

All three of Kent's PCTs are putting off non-urgent operations until the next financial year in April as they struggle to cope with huge funding deficits.

Prevention

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent revealed last month that 64 types of procedure were being put on the backburner, including hip and knee replacements, while weight loss surgery and gender reassignment has also been affected in west Kent.

The move has come under fire from GPs, but health bosses have stressed that action needed to be taken.

An NHS Medway spokeswoman said: "We need to take further measures to ensure we use NHS resources more effectively, otherwise we will not be able to keep within our financial limits.

"These procedures affect a small number of people and we recognise this will be hard for them, but we need to ensure we have the finances available for healthcare and prevention of ill health for the majority of Medway's population."

Last Friday, Professor Robert Edwards – who developed the fertility treatment that led to the birth of the first 'test tube baby' Louise Brown in 1978 – was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine.

IVF (in vitro fertilisation) is a process by which egg cells are fertilised by sperm outside the body before being returned to the patient's uterus.

During a recent question-and-answer session in the Commons, Mr Lansley said: "Many PCTs have made good progress towards meeting Nice guidance recommendations on the provision of IVF treatment.

"However, I am aware a small number of PCTs with historical funding problems have temporarily suspended local NHS provision of IVF. I have already expressed my concerns about this approach. I expect all PCTs to have regard to the current Nice guidance and fully recognise the significant distress and impact infertility has on people's lives."

Safety in numbers

KENT Police are urging homeowners to protect their goods this Christmas by logging serial numbers on a national database.

The Immobilise website – www.immobilise.com – gives officers an easy way to reunite people with stolen items such as laptops, MP3 players and mobile telephones.

Supt Des Keers said: "This database is available all-year-round, but Christmas is a time when people all over the country will receive valuable items as gifts, and we would really encourage everyone to log these items on the Immobilise database.

"This is a free service which can prove the difference between stolen property being returned to its owner or never being seen again."

Bygone favourite

ONE of the world's oldest alcoholic drinks may be making a comeback thanks to staff at the Canterbury Tales.

Visitors to the attraction are being offered a free tasting session of mead, which dates back to the late 14th century in the Middle Ages.

Attractions manager Steve Beer said: "It's a delicious drink, particularly for this time of year, and by offering people a taster we hope it will help to bring back a favourite from a bygone age."

Visit www.canterburytales.org.uk or call 01227 479227.

A tribute to fallen

AN EXHIBITION detailing the story of the Unknown Warrior is to be held at the Royal Engineers Museum in Chatham.

The Unknown Warrior was the name given to an unidentified fighter brought back to the UK as a symbol of the unknown dead found on the World War One battlefields.

The exhibition, which has also been held in Dover, comes to Chatham on Tuesday, January 11 and will remain until the end of February.

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Cases involving hundreds of staff in last six months blamed on uncertainty

Huge rise in disciplinary and grievance hearings at KCC

By **MARIJKE COX**
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THE number of disciplinary and grievance cases involving staff at County Hall has soared in six months, a new report has revealed.

Findings discussed by Kent County Council's personnel committee showed 367 employees – excluding school staff – were involved in cases relating to poor performance, sickness absence and harassment between April and September 2010.

Eighty-seven individuals were brought before disciplinary proceedings and 36 were involved in grievance cases, 14 more than the previous count, with the report blaming uncertainty within KCC and higher levels of "challenge" by employees.

Significant increases were seen in the number of staff hauled up for performing badly, with 49 – 22 more than the previous six months – being reprimanded, and 164 (68 more) involved in sickness absence.

The number of harassment cases was 11 and unspecified capability incidents rose from three to six.

Since April, 2010, there have been four employment tribunals and 10 appeals.

Confident

Cllr Roger Gough, cabinet member for corporate support services and performance management, said the rise was a result of managers becoming more confident in addressing staff issues.

"What we've been working on for years is increasing the support that personnel gives managers in how to deal with issues of this kind," he said.

"Managers are sometimes a bit nervous about how to deal with employee problems.

"What we've done is carry out an initiative giving them moral support and this has given them more confidence in dealing with issues. This is why there has been a rise. The figures overall show an increase, but this hasn't been happening suddenly."

Cllr Gough admitted sickness absence levels within the public sector were high, but said this was being addressed by the authority.

"We've seen a significant reduction in the last few years through the work we've been doing," he said.

Commenting on all cases of disciplinary and grievance, Cllr Gough said the council strived to deal with these fairly.

He added: "It is sensible as an employer which spends public money that performance levels are made clear to the public.

"We want to make how we are performing even more clear and disciplinary and grievance is a regular feature in this.

"Transparency is important so the public can see how KCC is performing."

The report also showed that 340 cases – many of which were initiated before last April – were resolved between April and September, including 18 appeals.

The report stated: "There has been a significant increase in the number of cases concluded in the same six-month period. Many of the appeals are for either redundancy or lower levels of the disciplinary process, only two of which were against dismissal.

"It is perhaps not surprising that grievance activity has increased, at a time of some uncertainty and reorganisation when we would expect higher levels of challenge.

"This, however, has not reached concerning levels and will in part be a reflection of well-managed change and consultation."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Bishop's first duty

SERVICE: The Rt Rev James Langstaff is inaugurated

THE 107th Bishop of Rochester was inaugurated with a service at the historic city's cathedral last weekend.

The Rt Rev James Henry Langstaff has taken over from Dr Michael Nazir-Ali, who retired last year, in representing about 1.2 million people living in Bexley, Bromley, Medway, Gravesham, Dartford and west Kent.

One of his first official duties was to oversee the formal opening of the Bishop of Rochester Academy, in Chatham, on Wednesday.

The Bishop said: "The academy is a very ambitious undertaking and aims to provide outstanding teaching and learning opportunities for young people in the area. The principal, board of governors and teaching staff look for exemplary behaviour from students and seek to set an example of mutual respect."

MP welcomes English test

TORY MP Laura Sandys has welcomed the news that foreigners wanting to learn English will not need a minimum proficiency to study for up to 11 months.

"Across Thanet and Sandwich we have among the most popular language schools in the country," said the member for South Thanet.

"The Coalition's decision represents a commonsense approach to a highly complex issue."

BUSINESSES were hit when telephone cables worth £500 were stolen from Bethersden, near Ashford.

An estimated 300 metres was taken between 6.30pm on December 6 and 12.30pm the following day.

Anyone with information should call police on 01622 690690, quoting reference FY/19209/10.

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Why season of goodwill can fill many with fear

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

CHRISTMAS is meant to be the season of goodwill, but for domestic abuse victims it is often a time of fear, sadness and suffering.

Last year Kent Police dealt with 21,332 reported incidents of abuse, an increase of 622 from 2008/09, with the festive period continuing to be the most likely time for tempers to flare.

In an attempt to reverse this worrying trend, the force has encouraged ex-offenders to share their experiences as part of its Stay Safe This Winter campaign.

David Smith (not his real name), who recently took part in the Community Domestic Abuse Programme, explained how even the smallest problems can escalate into violence at Christmas.

"Typically the TV and DVD are stress points, as a controlling person will try and take over the viewing," he said. "Alcohol is also a problem and can lead to abuse.

"My own flashpoints were if I spent most of the morning preparing and cooking Christmas dinner and then found the family unwilling to help clear the table and wash up. But now to cope with events such as Christmas, I use positive self-talk and non-abusive time out, such as going for a walk to chill. The skills I've learned include communication, listening, and understanding women's fear and anger, as well as not to be judgemental."

According to the Home Office, the cost to Kent and Medway in dealing with the effects of domestic abuse and sexual assault is about £317 million a year.

This includes threatening behaviour, violence, and psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse between adults who are either intimate partners or other relatives. More rarely reported incidents of forced marriage, stalking and honour-based violence are also included in the figures.

To tackle the problem, representatives from the police, criminal justice, local government agencies and support groups have come together to form the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy Group.

"Domestic abuse is a serious issue and there is a never an excuse for abusing your partner," said Supt Maria Shepherd, head of Kent Police's public protection unit. "Extra socialising during the festive season, financial pressures and spending long periods with family can aggravate violent relationships.

"Latest statistics show that younger people are now the most likely to become domestic abuse victims or repeat offenders. We encourage victims to continue coming forward as domestic abuse is under-reported."

• ***National Domestic Violence Helpline – 0808 2000 247. The Male Advice Line – specifically for men affected by domestic abuse – 0808 801 0327.***

FLASHPOINT: Seasonal pressures lead to domestic abuse in many relationships

It's a dog's life, not a plaything

ANIMAL welfare campaigners have repeated the 'a dog is for life' message after claiming most children tire of their gifts just weeks after Christmas.

New research carried out by Dogs Trust – which has a re-homing centre in Canterbury – revealed that one in five parents in the South East would still consider buying their child a dog for Christmas.

And in an attempt to clamp down on pets being treated as unwanted gifts, the charity is refusing to re-home any dogs from now until January 2.

CUTE: But ownership demands commitment

"So far this year we have taken in 517 abandoned dogs," said Canterbury centre manager Adam Levy. "Too often dogs are not thought of as a lifelong commitment but rather as accessories that can be discarded or replaced.

"It is disturbing to think festive decorations may last longer in the home than some dogs bought for Christmas. It's simply unacceptable to toy with a dog's future in this way."

The OnePoll survey carried out on behalf of Dogs Trust revealed that a third of children in the South East have requested a dog as a gift this Christmas.

In addition, 17 per cent of parents said that last year it took their child less than an hour to lose interest in their presents.

Dogs Trust chief executive Clarissa Baldwin said: "We seem to have grown accustomed to impulse purchases, but when you apply that 'buy now, think later' mentality to dog ownership, the end result is very often abandonment.

"Sharing your life with a dog is one of the most rewarding things you can do, so it saddens us to see people buying dogs on a whim and then thinking lightly of that responsibility."

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Crossing swords across Estuary over 'blight' of new county link

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A POLITICAL row has broken out after an Essex council leader blasted Kent's plans for a third Thames crossing.

Cllr John Kent – leader of Labour-run Thurrock Council – believes his authority has been left out in the cold while the Tories who run Kent and Essex county councils press ahead with their proposals.

Earlier this month KCC revealed its preferred option for the new crossing as a tunnel linking Chadwell in Essex with land to the east of Gravesend.

The Government is considering that option, as well as one next to the existing Dartford crossing – which runs into Thurrock – and another which would link Gravesend with Tilbury in Essex.

Cllr Kent said: "KCC is holding a consultation into a fourth option which passes Chadwell and then heads north to Brentwood, and Essex is also looking at different proposals. At least the Government has asked our opinion – even if its proposals are ill-thought-out and short-termist – but the county councils have hardly bothered.

"They seem to think they can blight our lives however they want.

Gridlock

"We've asked the Government and both councils for more details, but before anything is decided we've got to get junction 30/31 of the M25 sorted out or we are going to be permanently gridlocked."

Plans for a third Thames crossing were revealed as part of KCC's Growth Without Gridlock transport strategy for the next 20 years. At an estimated £1 billion it is by far the most expensive item on the council's wish-list to the Department for Transport, and does not include the cost of building access roads.

KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "With Essex County Council we jointly commissioned an independent report into the feasibility of a third Thames crossing.

"KCC then commissioned KPMG to look at the economic benefits, which concluded that a new crossing east of Gravesend would create about 6,000 jobs in north Kent and south Essex and contribute £334m to the local economy per annum.

"We will now work with all parties and the Government to further develop the case for a third crossing of the Thames."

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www.kentnews.co.uk

Fat cat's reward

A FAT cat from Maidstone has reached the national finals of a pet slimming competition.

Six-year-old Lady was selected by veterinary charity PDSA and tips the scales at 8.3kg. The animal is classed as being 65 per cent overweight.

The winner of the six-month competition will receive a pet-friendly holiday worth £300.

First-aider's pride at St John honour

A ST JOHN Ambulance volunteer has been rewarded for exceptional service to the life-saving organisation.

Paul Collins, from Marden, near Maidstone, was invested into the Order of St John at a ceremony on Thursday, December 9.

He was presented with the Order's insignia by the Prior of England and the Islands, Rodney Green.

Mr Collins said: "I joined St John Ambulance so I could learn first aid and be the difference between a life lost and a life saved, but I never thought it would lead to something like this."

Newspaper attack thugs sent to jail

TWO thugs have been jailed for 15 months each for an unprovoked attack on a newspaper delivery driver.

Daniel Brown, 22, and Anthony Brown (no relation), 22, had been drinking when they attacked their victim because he refused to give them a free paper.

The 34-year-old suffered severe bruising to his head and lip in the attack, which took place in Teynham, near Faversham, on Saturday, May 8.

Detective Constable Steve Rees said: "I hope this serves as a warning that alcohol-fuelled violence will not be tolerated and can have serious repercussions."

LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817001, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Let down over station's lift

At the last Faversham Local Engagement Forum, a member of the public asked about the lack of resolution over installation of the lift at the town's railway station.

A lift is badly needed by countless disabled people, including wheelchair users, who are prevented from using trains to and from Faversham, but the project is held up because of disagreement over the design of its casing.

Cllr Anita Walker, chairing the meeting, said it would be installed in a couple of months. She also advised the meeting that people who needed help could ask for assistance to cross the line. Unfortunately, Cllr Walker is wrong on both counts. The Swale council planners responsible were contacted the day after the meeting and confirmed that while Network Rail had been contacted recently the matter had not yet been resolved.

The problem arose because Faversham Town Council insisted that a condition of planning consent should be that the lift is encased in wooden cladding in keeping with the architecture of the Grade II listed building. Eventually, Network Rail decided this would be too costly. Subsequently the town council agreed to a waiver on this condition so installation could go ahead.

However, Swale council planning officers, who have delegated powers in this matter, have retained the condition and have, I believe, asked Network Rail to submit a new planning application, which will mean another delay.

As for getting to the platforms by crossing the line, a disabled friend tested this out on Thursday, December 9, and was told that only platforms three and four were accessible in this way and then only if a member of staff was available as an escort. Platforms one and two are now out of bounds, as the platforms have been extended past the crossing point.

The whole sorry saga is appalling and I wonder how Swale Borough Council and the elected members feel they are discharging their duty, under the Disability Discrimination Act, to ensure all services are accessible to the community.

I urge readers to write letters of complaint to Swale's planning department and their ward councillors – we elected them.

Judith Webb, Faversham

OPINION: PROUD SPIRIT OF INVICTA

A seasonal message to all readers from the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, **ALLAN WILLETT** CMG, Her Majesty the Queen's representative in the county

TIMES are tough as we cope with the effects of global recession but, as ever, the resilience of our Frontline County's people shines through.

I see it in Kent's wonderful army of volunteers who are the backbone of our county and add so much value to our lives. I see it in our servicemen and women on active service, and their families who wait with such fortitude.

And I see it in our young people, whose achievements we have been celebrating throughout the year. We commemorated the 70th anniversaries of the miracle of Dunkirk and the Battle of Britain, and we also celebrated the 150th anniversary of the birth of the Cadet movement and the centenary of Guiding, both of which do so much for the development of our young people, giving them a head start in life. You only have to meet our Cadets and Guides, as I did during their anniversary celebrations, to reassure yourself that our county will be safe in their generation's hands. It is of great importance that the young people of today understand and appreciate the sacrifices of earlier generations. But it is equally important that older generations do not write off today's young as soft, uncaring and troublesome, but instead hear about all the positive things they are achieving, not only in uniformed youth organisations but in clubs, as young carers and the like.

Thanks to Kent and Medway's network of youth organisations and services, many young achievers are making great strides in personal development, becoming valuable, more employable citizens. These wonderful achievements have been made possible by the dedication of adult leaders and helpers and we want to encourage more of them to come forward.

Looking ahead, 2011 will be an emotive time for me as I retire as Lord Lieutenant on my 75th birthday in August. It has been wonderful to represent the Queen who has served our county, nation and the Commonwealth so well for so long.

When I took up the appointment I identified the Lieutenancy's aim as to provide a focus for county identity, unity and pride, give a sense of stability, recognise achievements, success and excellence, and promote service to others. Our aspiration is to celebrate Kent, its history and culture, serve its communities and contribute to its future.

For the remainder of my Lieutenancy, my intention is to continue to instil pride in our county's glorious past and to encourage a belief in Kent's future. We have the opportunity to leave a legacy to coming generations of pride in Kent that will sustain them in the years to come.

For me it has been a great decade, looking after members of the royal family on their many visits to Kent, presenting awards both to entrepreneurial businesses and to the volunteers, leading celebrations of notable anniversaries, visiting communities countywide, and the like. The coming year will be one of difficult decisions for many, but I believe it is also a year of promise. Nationally we have the royal wedding to look forward to, and the excitement of the run-up to the 2012 London Olympics.

And in Kent we will have the opening of the Turner Contemporary in Thanet, the new Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury, and the Sikh Gurdwara in Gravesend – all expressions of confidence in the future.

We will also be marking the 650th anniversary of the Magistracy and the fact that for the past four-and-a-half centuries the Magistracy and Lieutenancy have been closely associated.

As chairman of the county's advisory committee, I regard the Magistracy as the single most important component in the criminal justice system. Our magistrates in Kent – and there are more than 800 – consistently show a high degree of commitment to this important voluntary work, giving up much of their time for the good of our communities. Over the festive season, men and women from Kent will still be serving in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Our prayers are with them and their families. Our thoughts, too, are with the emergency services, those caring for others, and those who are ill or alone.

My wife Anne and I wish all Archant KOS Media readers a happy Christmas and a peaceful and successful New Year.

KOS media COMMENT

Let's put the New Year blues on hold

WITH Christmas almost upon us the excitement should be mounting, but it seems the Government is doing its utmost to dampen our spirits.

Cuts to council grants, threats to much-needed services and hikes in tuition fees are hardly a recipe for seasonal goodwill.

This should be a time of festive fun, with New Year blues far from our thoughts.

Instead, we are being made only too aware of the things we need to do, the sacrifices we need to make, to ensure the country doesn't slip further into the economic mire.

Which is why it's important to enjoy the Christmas season, despite the financial woe. It shouldn't be about presents and spending money that in January you'll wish you'd been a bit more careful with, but sharing time with family and friends. Quality time doesn't cost anything.

Everyone will have to brace for what next year will bring in cuts and lost services.

And the Government is right that we need to be careful with our spending as a nation, especially in the wake of the local council grant reductions.

But for the next week or so just enjoy the build up to Christmas – and don't let the worries of 2011 ruin the end of 2010.

More Holyhead than Hollywood, my liege

THE blockbuster about the siege of Rochester Castle, due to hit our screens next year, is bound to cause some confusion.

The producer has promised it will be as historically accurate as possible, with viewers feeling as if they are really there.

This could be a slight problem for the Medway born and bred when they see valleys and sheep everywhere – due to the fact the film has actually been shot in Wales.

The castle should perhaps change its promotional 'From Rochester to Hollywood' poster. Wouldn't 'From Rochester to Wales' be more apt?

Shining light of your support

I would like to thank the people of Kent for their continued support of homeless charity Porchlight. This year, thanks to groups such as Archant KOS Media, we have seen a marked increase in the awareness and knowledge of our charity as well as an increase in donations.

Homeless and vulnerable people are often not viewed as the most deserving of causes either because of a misunderstanding of the issues that surround their situations or the spread of negative stereotypes and attitudes. Although this viewpoint persists, we at Porchlight are pleased to say that slowly but surely it is changing. Every day we are working with more than 500 people in the county who feel excluded from what we would term a "normal" life.

Through our work and the understanding of the county's residents we can make them included. This time of year can be even more difficult for the people we support as many have had relationship breakdowns with their families. Please spare a thought for them and remember that if you do see someone who needs our support, call us on 0800 567 7699. When we know, we can help.

Mike Barrett, chief executive, Porchlight, Canterbury

I hate to point this out, but ...

If Home Secretary Theresa May has American preacher Terry Jones on her radar and is willing to ban him from entering the UK, when is she going to deal with radical preachers of hate in this country and deport them? What's good for the goose is good for the gander. It's time we got rid of these people.

R E Tucker, Sheerness

Viewers have the whip hand

Sports fans will be voting for the BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2010 this weekend. Campaign group Animal Aid is calling on people not to vote for jockey Tony McCoy, who is favourite to win the award.

Fourteen horses ridden by Mr McCoy have been killed or have died underneath him since Animal Aid began recording racecourse deaths in 2007. Four perished this year.

Sports Personality of the Year should be awarded to someone young people can look up to and be inspired by. Mr McCoy cannot fulfil this role.

Dene Stansall, Animal Aid, Tonbridge

Keep your eye on neighbours

With the cold, icy conditions forecast to continue, at Action for Blind People we're urging everyone to spare a thought for residents with sight loss.

Freezing weather can be a real pain and can cause inconvenience, but for some visually impaired people, it can be dangerous and also mean total isolation. Many blind and partially sighted people lack confidence getting out and about in good weather, so when frost and ice make pavements slippery they can become trapped in their own homes. We are encouraging everyone who knows a blind or partially-sighted person to check if they need any help. Our tips are: contact visually-impaired neighbours to make sure they are all right; clear their path of ice and snow; offer to drive them to and from work; do their food shopping; offer to walk with them, guiding them around icy surfaces. Your help will be a lifeline.

Colin Brown, Action for Blind People

Dig out spade and muck in

A huge thank you to the 70,000 people who took part in this year's CSV Make a Difference Day. A record number of people baked pumpkin pies for the elderly, made cupcakes for the homeless, planted bulbs in parks, knitted hats for premature babies and picked litter.

MPs swapped Westminster for a stint at their local Barnardo's shop, and I spent time planting trees and shrubs. And there's more to come. Make volunteering your New Year's resolution.

Dig out your spade and support CSV Action Earth in spring 2011. The campaign aims to help protect wildlife, clear allotments and create green spaces. Volunteers up and down the country will be making a difference.

For more information, visit www.csv.org.uk/actionearth.

Pete Waterman, CSV Action Earth

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400
For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

ASHDOWN
Mark and Elizabeth Ashdown are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Sophia Elizabeth Ashdown on the 18th November 2010 weighing 6lb 7oz

BOLTON
Miranda and Daniel Bolton celebrate the birth of their daughter Naomi Ruby Bolton on 16th November 2010

CLARKE
Joseph Anthony born on 11th November 2010, weighing 6lb 9oz. Son to Noel and Dulcie Clarke in Maidstone

CLUBB
Our beautiful son Alfie Shane Clubb born 25th November 2010 weighing 8lbs 3ozs at 12:53am.

COOK
Mr and Mrs Mark Cook would like to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Lily-Grace on the 10th November 2010. Big thanks and lots of love to both families.

FRANCIS
Beautiful Hollie Hayley Francis was born on 8th November 2010 weighing 1lb 9oz to Steven and Christina. Baby sister to Callum and Louis. We are all so proud.

GARROD
Nico born on 1st December 2010 weighing 7lbs 14ozs. Son to Steven Jeffrey and Charlotte Garrod and brother to Sky Jeffrey and Salina Garrod.

GREENE
Phil and Jo of Herne Bay are delighted to announce the birth of their gorgeous son, Henry Philip, on 22 November 2010. Henry was born at 12.07pm and weighed 8lb 4oz.

GRIEVE
Charlie Michael Grieve. Born 23rd November 2010 weighing 9lbs 1oz. Son to Wendy Hadden and Paul Grieve in Dover.

HARRIS
Florence Oliwia Harris born on 2nd December 2010 to Katarzyna and Liam Harris weighing 2.77 Kilograms. Our most beautiful and precious daughter.

HILDING
Danielle and Danny Hilding of Lydd celebrate the birth of their daughter Lisa-Marie Angel, born on 3rd December 2010, weighing 9lbs 1oz. A sister to Melody.

HUTTON / REED
Andy and Rachel celebrate the birth of their son Hayden Jack Hutton born on 25th November 2010 weighing 7lbs 14oz.

HYLAND
James and Stacey of Herne Bay are very proud to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Hallie Ruby, on 26th November 2010.

LOWE
Adrian and Rachel Lowe would like to announce the birth of their daughter Amma Miriam born on the 3rd December 2010.

DEATHS

ADDLEY
Margaret Addley sadly passed away on the 8th December 2010. Much loved by her Daughters, Grandchildren, Brother, Nieces, Nephews and Friends. Gone for a long sleep.

ELSE
Kathleen Jessica Else (nee Stubbs) 28 January 1920 - 2 December 2010. Died peacefully at home in Istead Rise, near Meopham, Kent (formerly of Maidstone, Kent). Funeral 10.30 on 16th December 2010 at St Margarets Church Ifield, Kent. Flowers to Co-op Funeralcare, Milton Road Gravesend.

HARRIS
Richard (Dick) Martin Harris of Boughton Monchelsea died peacefully on 7th December 2010 aged 89. Enquiries to Albany Funeral Services of Loose 01622 746688.

Asking for proof of your age is the law

Over the coming days many readers will buy products that are age-restricted, such as alcohol, tobacco, DVDs, computer games, even Christmas crackers.

To prevent underage sales and avoid possible prosecution most shops operate a Think 25 policy because it is difficult to tell someone's age. This means if you look under 25, you may be asked for proof of age at the checkout and if you cannot provide this the sale may be refused.

Shopworkers don't do this to be awkward. Both the law and their employer say they must. Any shopworker making an underage sale risks being fined up to £5,000 and getting a criminal record. Failure to ask for ID could also result in disciplinary action from their employer. An Usdaw survey showed a shocking 65 per cent of shopworkers have been verbally abused for asking for ID, 16 per cent have been threatened and two per cent assaulted.

Shopworkers don't deserve this at any time of year, let alone at Christmas when they are working harder than ever. Please take ID to the shops if buying age-restricted products. If asked for ID, treat the shopworker with courtesy and respect as they are only doing their job. That way we'll all be able to enjoy a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

John Hannett, general secretary, Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers

Raising awareness of tinnitus menace

It is my pleasure to once again support the British Tinnitus Association's Tinnitus Awareness Week, from February 4-11, 2011. As someone who's experienced tinnitus for a decade now, I am passionate about the need to increase awareness of this debilitating condition. As a musician, DJ, producer and radio presenter it goes without saying that I love music. Blasting my eardrums was what I lived for for many years, and the ringing in my ears afterwards – which I often thought of as a sign of a brilliant night – always went away after a day or so. But about 10 years ago the high-pitched tone in my ears failed to go away. It became a permanent noise which I later learned was tinnitus.

As well as knowing first-hand how hard it can be to cope with the constant high-pitched noise in my ears, I also know countless DJs, musicians and music lovers who are affected. While we are all now aware of the dangers and take precautions, ultimately we are resigned to a life with tinnitus. So are many thousands of others who make up the 10 per cent of the UK's population who experience tinnitus. Many of these cases could have been prevented through better awareness. Music lovers should be encouraged to continue enjoying music, but they should also be better informed about how to protect their long-term hearing. I want to spread the message about the importance of protecting your ears when attending gigs, concerts and when listening to loud music. The long-term hearing health of the nation is at stake.

Wearing hearing protection needn't kill the music. Good earplugs simply decrease the music volume without affecting fidelity and in turn prevent hearing damage. Tinnitus is not just a clubbers' affliction. People with a passion for classical music or opera who attend live concerts or who listen to loud music at home are just as likely to experience it as those who favour nightclubs and noisy bars. Tinnitus does not discriminate.

Please support the Tinnitus Awareness campaign. The BTA operates a freephone helpline (0800 018 0527) but receives no Government funding. This and its other support services are only available thanks to donations and legacies. Without the support services provided by the BTA thousands of people would be without the information and friendly advice that is often a lifeline and a source of great comfort to so many. Please support this worthy cause.

Eddy Temple-Morris, XFM producer and presenter

Transforming lives with Gift of Sight

"All I want for Christmas is the gift of sight." It may not be on many people's Christmas list, but for more than 30 million needlessly blind people, this is the sad reality. Sightsavers works to cure and prevent blindness in developing countries, and they're giving you the chance to transform the lives of some of the world's poorest by giving a Gift of Sight to friends and loved ones this Christmas. With just £5 you could pay for a simple pain-relieving trachoma eye operation, or your £17 can buy a cataract operation to enable someone to see again. So, why not rethink your Christmas list this year and add a Gift of Sight to transform someone's life in the developing world? Visit www.giftofsight.co.uk.

Sunetra Sarker, actress and Sightsavers' ambassador

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Stranded further down dole queue

Too many young people are still feeling the effects of the worst recession in recent history. Those with fewest qualifications are being pushed further back in the queue for work, leaving thousands stranded in the dole queue. This month, The Prince's Trust and The Royal Bank of Scotland Group have released their Cost of Exclusion report which revealed how much this youth disadvantage is costing the UK.

In the South East alone, youth unemployment could cost up to £15.8 million a week through benefits and lost productivity. Even a conservative estimate – based on lost productivity being equivalent to Jobseeker's Allowance – suggests youth unemployment costs per week for the South East would be more than £4.6m. Based on lost productivity being equivalent to the average weekly wage for their age group, the cost of youth unemployment in the South East is £15.8m a week.

The Prince's Trust can give young people the skills and confidence to leave the dole queue for good for a fraction of this cost. At this time when there is huge pressure on the public purse, the Cost of Exclusion report shows it is possible to help young people into jobs while saving billions. Government, charities and employers must work together now to deliver this change. To find out more click on www.princes-trust.org.uk or call 0800 842842.

Rosemary Watt-Wyness, Prince's Trust regional director

A decade of caring for cancer patients

As we near the end of the year and I celebrate my 10th anniversary as patron of Breast Cancer Care, it gives me a chance to reflect on the incredible work I have seen from our volunteers across the UK. It makes me feel privileged to be a part of this fantastic charity. Breast Cancer Care is the leading UK support charity for people with this devastating disease and has a great support network across Britain.

Our 500 volunteers do amazing work in offering emotional support to people diagnosed and spreading awareness. And there are thousands of inspirational fundraisers, whose generosity allows Breast Cancer Care to offer all of its services free. This year we became the first UK charity to mark Secondary Breast Cancer Awareness Day, which recognised all those living with incurable breast cancer – something that had never been done in the UK before and that shows our commitment to supporting everyone affected by the disease, at every stage.

More than 46,000 people every year are given the crushing news they have breast cancer. It seems like we all know someone whose life has been affected by breast cancer. I know what a difference the charity makes to people going through this diagnosis.

Breast Cancer Care promises to be there every step of the way for anyone diagnosed with, or affected by, breast cancer. Your readers' support has had a huge effect on so many people during 2010 – thank you so much, and please help us continue this valued and important work in the coming year.

Geri Halliwell, patron, Breast Cancer Care

Boxing Day meet will be delayed

Hunts are preparing to welcome supporters to traditional Boxing Day meets across the country. Hunts have enjoyed solid support since the Hunting Act came into force in 2005 and look forward to a rousing reception again this Christmas.

Readers planning on turning out to support their local pack this year should note that Boxing Day meets will be on Monday, December 27. Hunting does not take place on a Sunday, which is the day Boxing Day falls this year. The traditional meets will therefore be held off for an extra day.

Alice Barnard, chief executive, Countryside Alliance

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GRADUATES and lecturers gathered for a reception to celebrate three decades of creative development at Canterbury Christ Church University.

The 30th anniversary of the media department saw current students join their peers to recognise the milestone.

Senior lecturer Tim Jones said: "Back then there was almost no equipment and the department had just 25 students.

"Film was edited on a Steenbeck, tape was cut with razor blades and stuck with sticky tape, and video was edited on a U-matic suite.

"We are proud our graduates have made a name for themselves in the industry and have great success stories to tell."

Among them was Philip Morrow, founder of production company Wild Rover.

He said: "No course will ever be a guaranteed ticket for a job. There are lots of things on the course that will help you, but at the end of the day your attitude is the most important."

SPARKY: Graham Reynolds with Strange Electrical MD Patrick O'Brien

AN ELECTRICIAN has been named the South East's best apprentice in the building trade. JTL, which provides the building services engineering sector with trainees, awarded Graham Reynolds with a £700 cheque and the title of Best Apprentice 2010.

The 23-year-old, who works for Tunbridge Wells-based contractors Strange Electrical, saw off the challenge of 10 other finalists drawn from hundreds of nominees. He will compete in the JTL national apprentice awards in February.

He said: "I can't wait for the national finals. Just being there is a huge accomplishment."

JTL chief executive Denis Hird said: "These awards celebrate the achievements of apprentices and employers providing skills for the future."

Here's looking at you, Kidd

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

FASHION students were given the chance of a lifetime to design an outfit for international supermodel Jodie Kidd.

The catwalk queen set students at Rochester's University for the Creative Arts (UCA) the task of making dresses and jackets out of limited materials. It formed part of a new series for digital TV channel Yesterday called Ration Book Britain, which explores 1940s rationing and its effect on life during World War Two.

Kidd, 32, took the "make do and mend" ethos of the era and asked students to create outfits under ration rules. The undergraduates, who are studying for BA degrees in fashion design, made a reversible jacket and two dresses.

Kidd said: "I thought the students did an awesome job. The outfits were amazing and I have asked if I can keep one of the jackets.

"We only gave the students a few hours to make the garments from scratch, under strict rationing rules too, so they did fantastically well and managed to add a modern twist to the style of the day."

The group of students were thrilled to be involved in the new series.

Tola Mahiki said: "I'm really impressed that UCA Rochester was picked out of all the fashion courses in the country. It makes me even more proud to study here."

Second-year fashion design student Olivia Salmon said: "I've never had to make anything this quickly before or for someone as famous as Jodie Kidd, so the pressure was on, but it's been a great opportunity for us."

Course leader Donna Ives said she was proud of the students for what they achieved.

"They made high-quality garments under 1940s constraints and under the glare of a TV lens in a day. I'm sure it will give them all a great confidence boost to know that they can do it," she said.

Student Hannah Chivers said working under the pressure of the cameras was difficult at first. "I didn't want to make a mistake. After a while though, I was too busy to worry about the cameras," she said.

Claire Ratinon, assistant producer at Optomen, which produced the series, said the filming went well.

"The university was really accommodating, the students were great and really threw themselves into the project. We couldn't have asked for any more," she said.

Ration Book Britain is a new four-part series which is being aired at 9pm on Mondays. The first episode was shown on December 13.

SUITS YOU, MADAM: Supermodel Jodie Kidd with UCA students in Rochester

CLEAR WINNER: Max Kimber picked up the Grand Jury prize at the Exposures Student Film Festival

On the cusp of exposure

A FINE artist from the University for the Creative Arts at Canterbury has won the top award at a prestigious film festival.

Max Kimber, who is in the final year of her BA (Hons) degree, picked up the Grand Jury prize at the Exposures Student Film Festival for her short film, Cusp. The former Rochester resident said: "I was so pleased just to have my film selected for the festival as only 60 from 450 submissions are, so I thought I was a winner already.

"The standard of films nominated was incredibly high so I thought I had no chance whatsoever, which I was more than happy with."

Pull out your Review section opposite to read JobsforKent.co.uk, starting on page 43

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Salary: Academy Pay Scale 2; Pay Band 5 pro rata
Equates to £7,291 p.a.

We require a PAT and Asset Control Assistant to join our Finance and Admin team based at The Marlowe Academy with regular attendance at The Folkestone and Spires Academies. You will be responsible for maintaining fixed asset registers for all sites in the Academy Group together with the inspection and testing of portable and fixed electrical equipment.

Closing Date: Friday 7th January 2011

Full details and an application form are available from our website: www.marloweacademy.co.uk.
Alternatively contact Marion Wigington on 01843 598550 or via email: m.wigington@spiresacademy.com

The Marlowe Academy is committed to the safeguarding of children and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check and satisfactory references. The Marlowe Academy is an equal opportunities employer.

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Required for January 2011

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We require a dynamic, enthusiastic Office & Records Supervisor to join our Finance and Admin team based at The Marlowe Academy with regular attendance at The Folkestone and Spires Academies

As part of your role you will lead our Marlowe admin team and ensure the delivery of excellent customer service. In addition you will act as primary contact for Freedom of Information requests for all group academies.

Closing Date: Friday 7th January 2011

Full details and an application form are available from our website: www.marloweacademy.co.uk.
Alternatively contact Marion Wigington on 01843 598550 or via email: m.wigington@spiresacademy.com

The Marlowe Academy is committed to the safeguarding of children and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check and satisfactory references. The Marlowe Academy is an equal opportunities employer.

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Salary Negotiable
Welcome people looking for SOMETHING DIFFERENT!
Our company is renowned for being cutting edge and an industry leader; we pride ourselves on being different, forward thinking and fun. When you’re a part of our family, you’ll be a part of the “can do” atmosphere that makes our marketing company unlike any other. Do you have a confident personality that will move business and culture forward? Can you acquire and retain high quality new customers that will help achieve our client’s objectives? Can you make an otherwise boring sales pitch or training seminar cheeky, rebellious and brilliant? Prove it - apply now to become the newest member of our marketing campaign!!
Individuals will be responsible for communicating our clients’ vision, values and product/service benefits. Lead the day to day on new customer acquisition and retention, track & analyse territory, and organise and attend staff meetings, campaign projections, conferences, etc. The ideal individual must have excellent communication skills in writing, speaking and presentation along with experience in face to face customer service. A professional image and strong communications skills are essential because we target potential customers where they work, live and shop. Working alongside our company you will enjoy a comprehensive compensation based on merit and performance which includes a competitive bonus structure and continual product workshops. If you would like to explore participating in an energetic and friendly environment, e-mail your CV. As places are being filled immediately, Kent based applicants are preferred. We regret that we will not respond to all applicants; only those selected for the first round will be contacted. You will be working with customers and clients face-to-face, so solid communication skills and a willingness to learn is essential. Successful candidates may be asked to attend a more extensive interview; including spending a full day interview with a member of the marketing division (this is still a period of observation & will have no claims for compensation).
Please note: This opening is not based in a restaurant/ bar or retail shop - our openings involve face to face customer interaction, so we're looking for people with this type of experience. Thank you for your interest! Good Luck!
To apply/more information:
JK Marketing Services
admin@jkmarketingservices.com
Quoting Job Ref: HO/812

Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

Trainee Home Insulation Surveyor - Immediate Start

Maidstone
Salary Negotiable
Autonomous Lead Generators and Home Insulation Surveyors Wanted in Maidstone... * Full On-Site Surveying Workshops! * Must be Able to Work Independently & Be Willing to Travel Increasing customer demand to reduce carbon emissions and utility funding for cavity insulation has resulted in a new division for our company! Whilst we are traditionally marketing; sales company, our most recent client in the building industry has unique needs. We are looking to contract self-motivated and enthusiastic individuals to join our successful division of lead generators and surveyors in the Maidstone area! Generation - Meeting with potential home owners face to face to explain our client's services - Generating leads and getting referrals for potentially qualified home owners - Basic customer service, answering queries and scheduling surveying appointments Once you've proven a solid understanding of the client’s product and can prove you are able to source your customers, we can offer advice and guidance on surveying so you will be able to conduct property surveys. Surveying - Following up on leads to determine if the property qualifies for the government scheme - Taking measurements and sketching the property - Scheduling an appointment for the customer's loft insulation No previous experience is required as we will provide full product training through both practical and theoretical workshops. However, knowledge of construction, property development and building structures can speed up the process! Earnings are accumulated on a daily basis, and rewarded only on completed sales. Ideal candidates will: - Be driven to take control of their own future. - Enjoy working with people, but be capable of working independently To apply please send your CV and a contact number. All applicants must be at least 18 years of age and willing to spend a full day in the field observing an experienced independent surveyor before a final offer is made.
To apply/more information:
JK Marketing Services
admin@jkmarketingservices.com
Quoting Job Ref: TRSR/2911

Customer Service, Call Centre

Telephone Sales Executive

Ashford
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
ARCHANT } KOS MEDIA
christine.davidson@
kosmedia.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Customer Service/ Retail Sales Experience Wanted

Maidstone
Salary Negotiable
Client and Customer Service Experience Welcome JK Marketing Services was established to service an emergence in the market for quality face to face customer acquisition teams in the UK. With an industry of offices in every major city across the UK and Ireland, the national coverage we provide our clients with; both niche and mass market, puts us in a powerful position in the marketplace. Based in Maidstone, JK Marketing Service work with international companies in industries ranging from, construction to cosmetics, telecoms, financial services, power and even charities. Demand for our experience and the results we produce has soared as our reputation and client base spreads in the UK and rest of Europe. Face to Face customer acquisition places will be involved in helping customers make educated decisions through our extensive marketing campaigns designed to target decision makers where they work, live and shop. No specific experience is required since we provide all necessary information workshops that allow people to develop at their own pace. Our services are in high demand due to current trends in marketing strategies. We’ve proven to be a reliable source of new customer acquisition for our clients and will continue to grow our portfolio over the coming years. Earnings are accumulated on a daily basis, and rewarded only on completed sales. This is an excellent opportunity for people looking to take control of their own future. Thanks for your interest in JK Marketing Services. Successful applicants will hear from a member of our administrative team within 2-4 business days. We will arrange a time to meet where we will discuss your CV and learn more about your ambitions and goals. You will have the opportunity to learn more about our company history, growth plans and our openings.
To apply/more information:
JK Marketing Services
admin@jkmarketingservices.com
Quoting Job Ref: RT/2911

German Speaking Customer Service Representative

Maidstone
Salary C£18,000
To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1713

Telesales Canvassers

Canterbury
Salary £8 per hour
To apply/more information:
Solar Smart Ltd
tbalykova@btconnect.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Domestic

DOMESTIC HELP

Crowborough
Salary Above average
To apply/more information:
Kimberley Court
bryantasia@aol.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Cleaning Supervisor

Tenterden
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Ridge Crest Cleaning Ltd
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Cleaners

Tenterden
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Ridge Crest Cleaning Ltd
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Mobile & Static Cleaning Supervisors

Ashford, Canterbury, Tenterden, Maidstone & Dartford Areas
Salary £7.50 ph
UK'S PREMIER CLEANING COMPANY IS LOOKING TO RECRUIT OPERATIONS MANAGERSMOBILE & STATIC CLEANING SUPERVISORS & CLEANERS Ashford, Canterbury, Tenterden, Maidstone & Dartford Areas Full and Part Time PositionsVariety of Shift Times Available Operations Managers / Supervisors salary subjectto experience.Static Supervisors - £7.50 PH minimumCleaning Operatives - £6.00 PH minimum Cleaning Operatives Call 01622 717414Managers/Supervisors email CV to mail@ ridgecrestcleaning.com
To apply/more information:
Ridge Crest Cleaning Ltd
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Cleaners

Ashford, Canterbury, Tenterden, Maidstone & Dartford Areas
Salary £6.00 per hour
To apply/more information:
Ridge Crest Cleaning Ltd
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Domestic Trades

Plasterer/all-round property repairs person

Folkestone
Salary pay negotiable
To apply/more information:
DMS
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

PAT and Asset Control Assistant

Canterbury
Salary £7,291 p.a.
To apply/more information:
Marlowe Academy
amanda.mulvihill@
marloweacademy.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Education, Teacher, School

MUSIC TEACHER

Medway
Salary TBC
A Music Teacher is needed in the Medway Area. You MUST have QTS for this position. The position is working with Young Offenders, dealing with children with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties, and dealing with challenging behaviour.

Jobs by Email

Be the first to receive the latest Kent Jobs

JobsforKent.co.uk

To apply/more information:
Education Sense
office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: MUS

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

Refrigeration Engineers

Sittingbourne
Salary Negotiable
Refrigeration Engineers. F-Gas Certified. Tired of working on ‘low tech equipment? Thermotron Industries manufactures ‘high tech' equipment used by technical experts in engineering and product qualification laboratories all over Europe. As a leading manufacturer of environmental chambers, we'll keep your stimulated with an interesting career, training and some European travel. Thermotron offers you:Work that's interesting and challenging.High tech equipment to work on (say goodbye to air conditioners and chillers).Ongoing professional training.Access to factory technical advisors. (Support when you are on site!)Frequent travel to Europe.A company provided vehicle and benefits.Security for the future. We are well established. If you are currently a qualified refrigeration engineer with F-Gas certification and are looking for the opportunity to get ahead, don't delay, apply now to:email: tkennedy@ thermotron.comOr post to:Thermotron IndustriesNewton House, Winch Road,Kent Science ParkSittingbourneKent
To apply/more information:
Thermotron Industries
info@thermotron.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Vehicle Technician/ MOT Tester

Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
Six Mile Garage LtdStone Street, Stelling Minnis, Canterbury, KentRequire a vehicle technician/MOT Tester Experienced in the use of diagnostic equipment would be an advantage Wages negotiabl Contact Mr Harling 01227 709214
To apply/more information:
Six Mile Garage Ltd
office@sixmilegarage.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Graduate, Trainees

Website Development Graduates

Kent
Salary At least Minimum wage
Canterbury Christ Church University is looking for Website Development Graduates from 2008, 2009 and 2010 for its funded internship programme offered to small businesses in Kent. The internship is for up to 13 weeks and will end in March 2011. Successful applicants will be employed by the particiapting companies for the duration of the internship period and will be paid at least the minimum wage. Interested graduates send your CV to sam.abdiche@canterbury.ac.uk Study areas include Business Adminstration, Computer Programming, Electronics and Computer networks, Marketing and PR, Media, Project Management, Sales and Website Development.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Christ Church University
hr@canterbury.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Health & Beauty

Salon Manager

Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
Are you a busy Hair stylist?Do you want to manage a salon in Canterbury?For further details call: 07767 613094.
To apply/more information:
George Antoniou
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

HR, Recruitment

Human Rescource Co-ordinator

Cliftonville
Salary £20791 - 3 Year Contract
To apply/more information:
East Kent Mencap
Lynda.Salisbury@
eastkentmencap.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: HRC0001

Industrial, Warehouse, Factory

Refrigeration Engineers

Sittingbourne
Salary Negotiable
Refrigeration Engineers. F-Gas Certified. Tired of working on ‘low tech equipment? Thermotron Industries manufactures ‘high tech' equipment used by technical experts in engineering and product qualification laboratories all over Europe.As a leading manufacturer of environmental chambers, we'll keep your stimulated with an interesting career, training and some European travel. Thermotron offers you:Work that's interesting and challenging.High tech equipment to work on (say goodbye to air conditioners and chillers).Ongoing professional training.Access to factory technical advisors. (Support when you are on site!)Frequent travel to Europe.A company provided vehicle and benefits.Security for the future. We are well established. If you are currently a qualified refrigeration engineer with F-Gas certification and are looking for the opportunity to get ahead, don't delay, apply now to:email: tkennedy@ thermotron.comOr post to: Thermotron IndustriesNewton House, Winch Road,Kent Science ParkSittingbourneKent
To apply/more information:
Thermotron Industries
info@thermotron.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Refuse Loader

Tonbridge
Salary £5.93ph
This Vacancy is being advertised on behalf of The Best Connection who are operating as an employment business. Previous experience is not essential. Own transport required to due to location. This work involves manual handling up to 25kg. Duties include assisting crews on daily routes, collection and loading of residential and commercial waste bins and any other tasks as required. Please apply by either email or phone: Phone: 01622 664999 Email: maidstone.admin@ thebestconnection.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The)
maidstone@
thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref:kos

Information Tech, Internet, Telecoms

Telecoms Sales/ Broadband Sales - Immediate Openings!!

Maidstone
Salary Negotiable
TELECOMS & BROADBAND EXPERIENCE WANTED FULL PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE PROVIDED! Since we have broadened our portfolio we’re looking to increase representation for our clients as soon as possible! We work with one of the UKs leading telecommunications providers and they have set us big goals to hit this year, so we have multiple places available. Our client's market share has increased dramatically over the past year, and in addition to their new media based campaigns, they want us to develop more sales representatives. We’re looking for experienced or inexperienced sales representatives, especially those looking for an immediate start. Full product workshops are provided, so people with minimal sales experience are still welcome to apply. In addition to sales, you will learn basic marketing techniques, customer service and client relations skills in order to better your leadership abilities. You will be working independently and as part of a team and need to be at least 18 years of age to represent clients. We choose to represent our clients in a way that produces the most consistent results. By speaking to their customers face to face, we are able to make sure they fully understand their options and are happy with their decision. Our residential and event based campaigns have proven to be a huge success and we’re now looking to expand into the business community. Hours can be flexible and payment terms will be discussed during your interview. SEND US YOUR CV TODAY! If your initial interview is a success, you will then be asked to spend a day with an experienced Telecoms Sales Representative in the field to gain a full understanding of the responsibilities involved. Since you cannot actively participate in any sales during this day, you will not be entitled to compensation. When you return to the office that evening, we will look to make a mutual final decision.
To apply/more information:
JK Marketing Services
admin@jkmarketingservices.com
Quoting Job Ref: IT/812

Leisure, Tourism, Travel

Bar/Waiting Staff

Whitstable
Salary Negoitable
Part-timeBar/Waiting Staff Required Experience preferred Use of own transport would bebeneficial due to late finishes. Weekend and Evenings.For more information please call Shelley on01227 792428.
To apply/more information:
Plough (The)
theplough.swalecliffe@:live.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Management, Senior Positions

Salon Manager

Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
Are you a busy Hair stylist?Do you want to manage a salon in Canterbury?For further details call: 07767 613094.
To apply/more information:
George Antoniou
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Marketing, Advertising

Marketing and PR Graduates

Kent
Salary At least Minimum Wage
Canterbury Christ Church University is looking for Marketing and PR Graduates from 2008, 2009 and 2010 for its funded internship programme offered to small businesses in Kent. The internship is for up to 13 weeks and will end in March 2011. Successful applicants will be employed by the particiapting companies for the duration of the internship period and will be paid at least the minimum wage. Interested graduates send your CV to sam.abdiche@canterbury.ac.uk Study areas include Business Adminstration, Computer Programming, Electronics and Computer networks, Marketing and PR, Media, Project Management, Sales and Website Development.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Christ Church University
hr@canterbury.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Senior B2B Sales Professionals

Ashford
Salary Negotiable
Senior B2B Sales Professionals To play a key role in developing new business and maintaining existing relationships. The ideal candidate should be comfortable with all stages of account management and should be proficient at sourcing leads, creating initial contact, delivering presentations, writing proposals, negotiating and closing.The person we are seeking will be an energetic and enthusiastic individual with good interpersonal skills, strong relationship-building capability and haveexcellent verbal and written communication ability. They will need to demonstrate a proven sales track record, preferably from within B2B media, willhave a good understanding of the benefits of printed, online and live media and ideally have knowledge of the Kent marketplace. We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.Please apply with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to: christine.davidson@ kosmedia.co.ukor in writing to Christine Davidson,ARCHANT KOS MEDIA,Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth,Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS
To apply/more information:
ARCHANT } KOS MEDIA
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Motor Trade, Driver

MOT tester/mechanic

Sutton Valence
Salary Negotiable
MOT tester/mechanic required for a small village garage south of Maidstone. Mon- Fri and alternate Sat. mornings. Good basic wages plus profit sharing. Ring 01622 842776.
To apply/more information:
Hilltop Garage
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Class 1 Drivers

Ashford
Salary From £10 per hr
Class 1 Drivers urgently requiredTemp to PermFrom £10 per hrAshfordNightsPlease call Sarah on 01622 695555.
To apply/more information:
Extrastaff Ltd
sarah.harbour@extrastaff.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

7.5T Multi-Drop Drivers

Maidstone
Salary Negotiable
7.5T Multi-Drop Driversurgently requiredAll must have digital taco and multi-drop experience.Based in Aylesford, Maidstone.Please call Sarah on 01622 695555
To apply/more information:
Extrastaff Ltd
sarah.harbour@extrastaff.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Night Staff

Broadstairs
Salary TBA
Port Regis Residential Elderly Care BroadstairsRequire Night Staff - F/T and P/TCook - F/T and P/TTel: 01843 602266.
To apply/more information:
Port Regis Residential Home
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Cook

Broadstairs
Salary TBA
Port RegisResidential ElderlyCare BroadstairsRequire Night Staff - F/T and P/TCook - F/T and P/TTel: 01843 602266.
To apply/more information:
Port Regis Residential Home
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Registered General Nurses

Maidstone
Salary Negotiable
Maidstone Care Centre259 Boxley Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 2AR57 bedded nursing/residential homeRequires the following staff Registered General NursesFor mainly night dutyFull or part time Care AssistantsFor days and nights.Full or part time. To apply contact Sue/Beve on01622 672292 during office hours only.
To apply/more information:
Maidstone Care Centre
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Care assistants and Senior Carers

Dover
Salary negotiable
To apply/more information:
Applecroft Care Home
applications@kosmedia.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Other

Do You Enjoy Home Decoration?

Canterbury
Salary TBC
Do you enjoy Home Decoration? C & H Fabrics Canterbury require an enthusiastic part timer for the Furnishing Floor. Hours 9-17.30 Tuesday-Friday Apply instore or call 01227 459760 for an application pack.
To apply/more information:
C & H Fabrics
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Public Sector, Social Services

SUPPORT WORKERS

Strood
Salary £13,250
ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, high quality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now requirethe following staff to complement our team at our home inSTROOD SUPPORT WORKERSSalary £13,250For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com Alternatively e-mail joanna.ship@achuk.comor contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8871. www.achuk.comLondon Limited.
To apply/more information:
ACH Care Homes Ltd
michelle.jenkins@achuk.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Night Staff

Broadstairs
Salary TBA
Port Regis Residential Elderly Care BroadstairsRequire Night Staff - F/T and P/TCook - F/T and P/TTel: 01843 602266.
To apply/more information:
Port Regis Residential Home
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Night Staff

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Salary TBA
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To apply/more information:
Port Regis Residential Home
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Care Assistants

Maidstone
Salary Negotiable
Maidstone Care Centre259 Boxley Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 2AR57 bedded nursing/residential homeRequires the following staff Registered General NursesFor mainly night dutyFull or part time Care AssistantsFor days and nights.Full or part time. To apply contact Sue/Beve on01622 672292 during office hours only.
To apply/more information:
Maidstone Care Centre
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

EARN AN INCREASING MONTHLY INCOME...

Kent
Salary TBC
Earn an increasing monthly income... Generous Payments Free BMW Mini Luxury Holidays Company Porsche 1,000s of people can earn a second income in their spare time, in partnership with the Utility Warehouse. YOU COULD TOO! Make money by saving people money No experience necessary Fantastic benefits! Find out more! Call 0800 781 2433 Get paid every month, for work you do once! www.minibills.co.uk Home phone, Mobile, Internet, Gas, Electricity ALL IN ONE SIMPLE BILL *Best Buy www.which.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Utility Warehouse
alanbarnett@telecomplus.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Retail Store Staff Skills Wanted at Marketing Firm

Maidstone
Salary Negotiable
Welcome people looking for SOMETHING DIFFERENT!
Our company is renowned for being cutting edge and an industry leader; we pride ourselves on being different, forward thinking and fun. When you’re a part of our family, you’ll be a part of the “can do” atmosphere that makes our marketing company unlike any other. Do you have a confident personality that will move business and culture forward? Can you acquire and retain high quality new customers that will help achieve our client’s objectives? Can you make an otherwise boring sales pitch or training seminar cheeky, rebellious and brilliant? Prove it - apply now to become the newest member of our marketing campaign!! Individuals will be responsible for communicating our clients’ vision, values and product/service benefits. Lead the day to day on new customer acquisition and retention, track & analyse territory, and organise and attend staff meetings, campaign projections, conferences, etc. The ideal individual must have excellent communication skills in writing, speaking and presentation along with experience in face to face customer service. A professional image and strong communications skills are essential because we target potential customers where they work, live and shop. Working alongside our company you will enjoy a comprehensive compensation based on merit and performance which includes a competitive bonus structure and continual product workshops. If you would like to explore participating in an energetic and friendly environment, e-mail your CV. As places are being filled immediately, Kent based applicants are preferred. We regret that we will not respond to all applicants; only those selected for the first round will be contacted You will be working with customers and clients face-to-face, so solid communication skills and a willingness to learn is essential. Successful candidates may be asked to attend a more extensive interview; including spending a full day interview with a member of the marketing division (this is still a period of observation & will have no claims for compensation). Please note: This opening is not based in a restaurant/ bar or retail shop - our openings involve face to face customer interaction, so we're looking for people with this type of experience. Thank you for your interest! Good Luck!
To apply/more information:
JK Marketing Services
admin@jkmarketingservices.com
Quoting Job Ref: RT/812

Transport, Logistics, Aviation

MOT tester/ mechanic

Sutton Valence
Salary Negotiable
MOT tester/mechanic required for a small village garage south of Maidstone. Mon- Fri and alternate Sat. mornings. Good basic wages plus profit sharing. Ring 01622 842776.
To apply/more information:
Hilltop Garage
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

7.5T Multi-Drop Drivers

Maidstone
Salary Negotiable
7.5T Multi-Drop Driversurgently requiredAll must have digital taco and multi-drop experience.Based in Aylesford, Maidstone.Please call Sarah on 01622 695555.
To apply/more information:
Extrastaff Ltd
sarah.harbour@extrastaff.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

PUBLIC NOTICE

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Hackney Fares

Proposal 2

Tariff 1 - May be charged at any time		
Initial Charge For the first 1 mile (1,760 yards) whilst in motion, the first 12 minutes, 40 seconds whilst stationary or a combination of both.		£4.00
Subsequent Charges For each 135.38 yards whilst in motion, each 40 seconds whilst stationary or a combination of both. Whilst in motion, this equates to approximately £2.60 per mile.		£0.20
Tariff 2 - May be charged for any hiring commencing:		
Tariff 1 + 50%	Any time between 20:30 and 06:00	
	Any time on a public holiday	
	Any time after 18:00 on either Christmas Eve or New Years Eve	
Initial Charge For the first 1 mile (1,760 yards) whilst in motion, the first 12 minutes, 40 seconds whilst stationary or a combination of both.		£6.00
Subsequent Charges For each 135.38 yards whilst in motion, each 40 seconds whilst stationary or a combination of both. Whilst in motion, this equates to approximately £3.90 per mile.		£0.30
Tariff 3 - May be charged for any hiring commencing:		
Tariff 1 + 100%	Any time on Christmas Day	
	Any time on New Years Day	
Initial Charge For the first 1 mile (1,760 yards) whilst in motion, the first 12 minutes, 40 seconds whilst stationary or a combination of both.		£8.00
Subsequent Charges For each 135.38 yards whilst in motion, each 40 seconds whilst stationary or a combination of both. Whilst in motion, this equates to approximately £5.20 per mile.		£0.40
Extra Charges Applicable to any of the above tariffs		
Weekend Hiring For any hiring commencing at any time Saturday and any time Sunday or Monday before 06:00		£0.80
Additional passengers Per person in excess of 2 passengers, excluding children under 1 year of age		£0.20
Congestion charges, tolls and car parking incurred during hiring Any charge(s) detailed above, incurred as a result of a passengers instruction may be added to the fare.		
Recommended Maximum Spoilage Charge Any claim for damage and/or spoilage must be a matter between the proprietor and the passenger. The amount charged must be relative to any repairs and/or losses.		£50.00

An application was made by a Tunbridge Wells town hackney carriage proprietor, for a hackney fare increase. The proposed fare increase has been heard by the Licensing Committee on 9 December 2010 at 18:00hrs at the Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1RS. Further details can be obtained from the Licensing Department on 01892 526121 or e mail licensing@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

Any person wishing to object to this notice must do so in writing within 14 days from the date of publication of this tariff (19 December 2010) to the Licensing Department, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1RS. The revised fares will come into effect on 01 January 2011 if either i) no objections are received, or ii) any objections received have been withdrawn before the specified date.

A copy of this notice shall for a period of 14 days from the date of first publication thereof 19 December 2010 be deposited at the offices of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and shall at all reasonable hours be open to public inspection without payment.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst**

Applicant: **Joe Lloyd**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
1st Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, ME14 1XX

Kent County Council

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

Highways – District of Shepway

ROLFE LANE, NEW ROMNEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because works to provide a new sewer connection, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Rolfe Lane, New Romney, on or after 20 December 2010 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between number 11 and the junction with Walner Lane.

The alternative route is via Rolfe Lane, Ashford Road and Cockreed Lane.

Highways - District of Tonbridge and Malling

(VARIOUS ROADS, TONBRIDGE AND MALLING) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND ON-STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO 3) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order has the effect of:-

1 introducing no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) at the junction of Alexander Grove and Milton Lane, Kings Hill, West Malling;

2. introducing "school keep clear" markings in Alexander Grove in the vicinity of the Kings Hill School, West Malling in the interest of public safety to all pedestrians crossing this road gaining access to and from the school.

The Order was sealed on 13 December 2010 and will come into force 20 December 2010.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Council Offices, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling and at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

Katherine Kerswell
Group Managing Director
Kent County Council
Sessions House
Maidstone
Kent

For further information please contact Kent Highway services on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) ORDER 1995

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF A DIRECTION UNDER ARTICLE 4(1) TO WHICH ARTICLE 5 APPLIES

NOTICE is hereby given that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council ("the Authority") has made a Direction under Article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 ("the Direction").

The Direction applies to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice within the area described in the Second Schedule to this Notice.

The effect of the Direction is that permission granted by article 3 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995 shall not apply to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice and that such development shall not be carried out within the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice unless planning permission is granted by the Authority on an application made to the Authority under Part III of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

A copy of the Direction and of the map defining the area of land covered by it may be seen at the Council's Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday 9am to 6.30pm) or 10am and 4pm on Saturday. Except that the Council's Tunbridge Wells Gateway will be closed between 24 and 28 December 2010 and 1 and 3 January 2011.

You have the right to make representations or objections in respect of the Direction. Any such representations or objections must be made in writing to the Head of Planning Services, Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS, within 28 days from the 20 December 2010.

It is proposed that the Direction comes into force in relation to the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice on 24 January 2011.

FIRST SCHEDULE

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995

SCHEDULE 2 PART 5 – CARAVAN SITES

Class A

The use of the land, other than a building, as a caravan site in the circumstances referred to in paragraph A.2.

SCHEDULE 2 PART 6 – AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS AND OPERATIONS

Class A – Development on units of 5 hectares or more

(a) Works for the erection, extension or alteration of a building; or

(b) any excavation or engineering operations

which are reasonably necessary for the purposes of agriculture within that unit.

Class B – Development on units of less than 5 hectares
(a) the extension or alteration of an agricultural building;
(b) the installation of additional or replacement plant or machinery;
(c) the provision, rearrangement or replacement of a sewer, main, pipe, cable or other apparatus;
(d) the provision, rearrangement or replacement of a private way;
(e) the provision of a hard surface;
(f) the deposit of waste; or
(g) the carrying out of any of the following operations in connection with fish farming, namely, repairing ponds and raceways; the installation of grading machinery, seration equipment or flow meters and any associated channel; the dredging of ponds; and the replacement of tanks and nets, where the development is reasonably necessary for the purposes of agriculture within the unit.

SCHEDULE 2 PART 7 – FORESTRY BUILDINGS AND OPERATIONS

Class A

The carrying out on land used for the purposes of forestry, including afforestation, of development reasonably necessary for those purposes consisting of :-

(a) works for the erection, extension or alteration of a building:
(b) the formation, alteration or maintenance of private ways;
(c) operations on that land, or on land held or occupied with that land, to obtain the materials required for the formation, alteration or maintenance of such ways;
(d) other operations (not including engineering or mining operations).

SECOND SCHEDULE

A parcel of land having an area of some 6.372722 hectares to the south east of Chieveley Drive, Hawkenbury Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent

Paul Cummins, Legal Services Manager,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council,
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1RS.

Dated : 18th December 2010

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

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TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) ORDER 1995

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF A DIRECTION UNDER ARTICLE 4(1) TO WHICH ARTICLE 6 APPLIES

NOTICE is hereby given that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council ("the Authority") has made a Direction under Article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 to which article 6 applies ("the Direction").

The Direction applies to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice within the area described in the Second Schedule to this Notice.

The effect of the Direction is that permission granted by article 3 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995 shall not apply to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice and that such development shall not be carried out within the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice unless planning permission is granted by the Authority on an application made to the Authority under Part III of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

A copy of the Direction and of the map defining the area of land covered by it may be seen at the Council's Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday 9am to 6.30pm) or 10am and 4pm on Saturday. Except that the Council's Tunbridge Wells Gateway will be closed between 24 and 28 December 2010 and 1 and 3 January 2011.

You have the right to make representations or objections in respect of the Direction. Any such representations or objections must be made in writing to the Head of Planning Services, Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS, within 28 days from the 20 December 2010.

The Direction was made by the Authority on 13 December 2010 and comes into force in relation to the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice on the 18 December 2010 which is the date on which this Notice is first published. However, the Direction will expire on 17 June 2011 unless confirmed by the local planning authority before the end of the six month period.

FIRST SCHEDULE

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995

SCHEDULE 2 PART 2 – MINOR OPERATIONS

Class A

The erection, construction, maintenance, improvement or alteration of a gate, fence, wall or other means of enclosure.

SCHEDULE 2 PART 4 - TEMPORARY BUILDINGS AND USES

Class B

The use of the land for any purpose for not more than 28 days in total in any calendar year, of which not more than 14 days in total may be for the purposes referred to in paragraph B.2, and the provision on the land of any movable structure for the purpose of the permitted use.

SECOND SCHEDULE

A parcel of land having an area of some 6.372722 hectares to the south east of Chieveley Drive, Hawkenbury Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Paul Cummins, Legal Services Manager,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council,
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1RS.

Dated: 18 December 2010

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

10/03760/LBC Matfield House The Green, Brenchley
- Listed Building Consent - The provision of new drainage to serve existing rainwater pipes on front elevation of main house (LB)

10/03876/FUL Lloyds TSB Bank Plc Lloyds Bank House, Cranbrook and Sissinghurst
- Conversion of a stable block to a residential dwelling and erection of a new residential dwelling (LB) (CA)

10/03895/LBC Bettenham Manor Bettenham Lane, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Listed Building Consent - Installation of shower to bedroom 1 including air extraction details, and details of the method of air extraction to bathroom 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 (LB)

10/03899/LBC Lloyds TSB Bank Plc Lloyds Bank House, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Listed building consent - Conversion of a stable block to a residential dwelling within curtilage of a Listed building (LB)

10/03875/LBC 73 London Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden
- Listed Building Consent - Removal of internal Victorian chimney and fireplaces on basement, ground, first and second floors, to northern wall and reinstatement works, and internal stabilisation works to north walls of basement (LB)

10/03888/HOUSE 73 London Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden
- Construction of garden wall, fencing and gates (LB) (CA)

10/03891/HOUSE 7 Earls Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden
- Single storey rear extension (CA)

10/03900/FUL Royal Express 25 Mount Pleasant Road, Culverden
- Installation of replacement shopfront (CA)

10/03702/LBC Victoria Hall Rye Road, Hawkhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Replacement of wooden front doors with wooden and glazed doors (LB)

10/03881/LBC Weald House Ockley Road, Hawkhurst
- Listed Building Consent: Reinstatement of fire damaged building and increase in height of eaves (LB)

10/03819/FUL Scotney Castle Hastings Road, Lamberhurst
- Connection of Scotney mansion to existing on-site Biomass boiler heating system (LB)

10/03821/LBC Scotney Castle Hastings Road, Lamberhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Connection of Scotney mansion to existing on-site Biomass boiler heating system (LB)

10/03906/TELN5 Rusthall Common Langton Road, Rusthall
- Telecommunication Notification: Installation of 1.6m high telecommunication cabinet (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 18 December 2010

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

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New Chevy MPV a family favourite

By **STEVE LOADER**

IT'S PROBABLY no accident that Chevrolet's new family model is named after one of the world's best known family playgrounds – Orlando in Florida.

But there's nothing of the fantasy world and roller-coaster ride about the new Chevy; the home of theme parks has given its name to a thoroughly down-to-earth and versatile all-new compact MPV.

It arrives early next year with a generous amount of equipment and a typical bargain price – from £16,395 with the new 20 per cent VAT rate.

And none too soon. The new seven-seater replaces and easily surpasses the Tacuma five-seat model that Chevy inherited when it bought out the old Daewoo car brand; the Tacuma was well past its prime when ditched two years ago.

In the intervening time, Chevy dealers have hoped to capture family buyers with the impressively well-priced and specc'd Captiva SUV, also available with seven seats, but perhaps a little bulky for people hunting a proper MPV.

Interestingly, the Orlando also now goes head-to-head with General Motors' sister brand Vauxhall's sector-leading Zafira, available from £14,995 but with nothing like the Orlando's specification options.

The Chevy's standard kit includes air con, front electric windows and mirrors, remote central locking, six airbags and three 12v power sockets.

There is also an extra rear view mirror allowing both driver and passenger to see all of the car's occupants, and a hidden compartment behind the stereo facia to conceal MP3 players, phones and iPods.

But it is the move up to the mid-range LT spec (from £17,395) that really impresses by adding rear parking distance sensors, a USB port, 16-inch alloys, climate control, driver's armrest, leather-covered steering wheel, front fog lights, electric rear windows and an upgraded sound system with steering wheel audio controls.

And flagship LTZ spec (from £18,195) brings a host more, plus the option on diesel versions to add a £2,000 Executive Pack: leather seats with heating for the front pair, sat nav and big 18-inch alloys.

The Orlando entry engine is a 1.8-litre 141PS/139bhp petrol engine, but most buyers will surely opt for one of the 2.0-litre diesels, available with 130PS/128bhp or 163PS/161bhp outputs and with six-speed gearbox as standard, offering average fuel consumption approaching 50mpg.

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2010 (10) NISSAN QASHQAI N-TEC 4WD SPORTS UTILITY VEHICLE AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles £19,995
2010 (59) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 5000 miles £14,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA SE 5DR NEW MODEL HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £13,995
2009 (59) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, BLACK, 750 miles £13,995
2010 (10) VOLKSWAGEN POLO SE DSG 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles £12,995
2010 (10) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1000 miles £11,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £11,495
2010 (10) VAUXHALL MERIVA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £10,995
2009 (09) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles £10,995
2010 (60) CITROEN NEMO 8V HDI TURBO MPV AUTO, RED, 100 miles £9,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles £9,995
2010 (10) RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, OTTOMON BLUE, 1000 miles £9,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA EXCLUSIV 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 1000 miles £9,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles £9,995
2009 (59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 450 miles £9,495
2009 (09) VAUXHALL AGILA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £8,995
2009 (59) NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, GREY, 1800 miles £8,995
2010 (10) NISSAN PIXO N-TEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 500 miles £7,995
2010 (10) PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £7,495

CONVERTIBLES CABRIOLETS

2009 (09) MERCEDES-BENZ CLK CLK200 KOMPRESSOR AVANTGARDE CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 20000 miles £26,000
2008 (08) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, GREY, 11000 miles £9,995
2006 (56) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles £8,995
2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £8,995
2006 (56) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles £7,995
2006 (06) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles £7,995
2007 (07) NISSAN MICRA SPORT CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £7,995
2005 (05) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT COUPE CABRIOLET CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 38000 miles £6,995
2006 (06) NISSAN MICRA CC SPORT CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles £6,995

FIESTA

2007 (57) FORD FIESTA GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 16000 miles £6,995
2007 (57) FORD FIESTA STYLE CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, MAUVEPURPLEVIOLET, 3000 miles £6,495
2006 (56) FORD FIESTA ZETEC CLIMATE 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, TONIC BLUE, 1600 miles, yes really under 2000 miles from new £5,995

FOCUS HATCH & SALOON

2009 (09) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles £10,995
2008 (58) FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 3000 miles £9,995
2008 (08) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 4000 miles £8,995
2008 (57) FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles £7,995
2007 (07) FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles £6,995
2007 (57) FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles £6,995
2005 (55) FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 27000 miles £6,495
2003 (53) FORD FOCUS GHIA 5DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 44000 miles £3,995

FOCUS ESTATES

2006 (56) FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 23000 miles £7,495

RENAULT SCENIC

2010 (59) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 5000 miles £14,995
2007 (07) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC PRIVILEGE DCI 130 FAP 5STR TD MPV AUTO, GOLD, 9000 miles £9,995
2007 (07) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 7STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £8,995
2007 (07) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 136 7STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles £8,995
2008 (57) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, BLACK, 18000 miles £7,995
2007 (07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles £7,995
2007 (07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, GREY, 26000 miles £7,995
2007 (07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 20000 miles £7,995
2007 (07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, RED, 13000 miles £7,995
2008 (57) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles £6,995
2006 (56) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 16000 miles £6,495
2006 (56) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT MPV AUTO, GOLD, 29000 miles £5,995
2004 (54) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE 16V MPV AUTO, BLACK, 27000 miles £5,495

RENAULT

2010 (10) RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, OTTOMON BLUE, 1000 miles £9,995
2008 (08) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, GREY, 11000 miles £9,995
2006 (56) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles £8,995
2008 (08) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 7STR MPV AUTO, GREEN, 15000 miles £8,995
2006 (06) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles £7,995
2006 (56) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles £7,995
2008 (58) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 1500 miles £7,995
2008 (58) RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 750 miles £6,995
2005 (05) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT COUPE CABRIOLET CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 38000 miles £6,995
2006 (56) RENAULT LAGUNA EXPRESSION SPORT TOURER 16V ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles £6,995
2007 (57) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles £6,995
2007 (07) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles £5,995
2005 (05) RENAULT MODUS PRIVILEGE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 39000 miles £4,995
2007 (56) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles £4,995

CHEVROLET

2008 (08) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles £6,995
2008 (58) CHEVROLET AVEO LT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 999 miles £6,995
2009 (09) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £6,995
2009 (58) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles £6,995
2008 (08) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles £5,995
2008 (08) CHEVROLET KALOS SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £5,995
2008 (57) CHEVROLET KALOS SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 18000 miles £5,495
2007 (07) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £4,995
2006 (56) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles £4,995
2007 (07) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 18000 miles £4,995
2007 (07) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 20000 miles £4,995
2008 (58) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE PLUS 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 3000 miles £4,995

HYUNDAI

2008 (08) HYUNDAI COUPE SIII COUPE AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles £9,995
2007 (56) HYUNDAI COUPE SIII COUPE AUTO, RED, 4000 miles £8,995
2008 (58) HYUNDAI MATRIX COMFORT MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles £7,495
2009 (09) HYUNDAI I10 COMFORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 7000 miles £6,995
2008 (58) HYUNDAI GETZ GSI 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £6,995
2008 (08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles £5,995
2008 (08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles £5,995
2008 (08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 24000 miles £5,995
2007 (57) HYUNDAI ACCENT ATLANTIC LIMITED EDITION 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles £5,995
2006 (56) HYUNDAI GETZ CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 9000 miles £5,995
2007 (07) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £5,495
2007 (07) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, BLACK, 15000 miles £5,495

KIA

2008 (58) KIA PICANTO 2 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles £5,995
2007 (57) KIA RIO ICE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles £5,495

DAIHATSU

2008 (08) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles £7,995
2008 (08) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £7,495
2007 (07) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles £6,995
2007 (07) DAIHATSU SIRION 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 20000 miles £6,995

FIAT

2006 (56) FIAT PANDA ELEGANZA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles £4,995
2007 (56) FIAT PANDA ELEGANZA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 25000 miles £4,995

FUSION

2008 (08) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles £7,995
2008 (08) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 3000 miles £7,995
2007 (07) FORD FUSION ZETEC CLIMATE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 4000 miles £5,995

CITROEN

2010 (60) CITROEN NEMO 8V HDI TURBO MPV AUTO, RED, 100 miles £9,995
2008 (58) CITROEN C4 SX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 1800 miles £8,995
2007 (57) CITROEN C3 SX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, DIABLO RED, 13000 miles £5,995
2002 (02) CITROEN SAXO DESIRE 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 54000 miles £2,995

MONDEO

2006 (56) FORD MONDEO LX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 24000 miles £6,995

CORSA

2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £11,495
2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles £9,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles £9,995
2009 (59) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 750 miles £9,495
2009 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles £8,995
2009 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 4000 miles £8,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles £8,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £8,495
2008 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 2000 miles £8,495
2008 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles £8,495
2007 (57) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 5000 miles £7,495
2008 (57) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 9000 miles £6,995

MAZDA

2008 (58) MAZDA 3 3 TAKARA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 5000 miles £9,995
2007 (57) MAZDA 3 3 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles £8,995
2006 (56) MAZDA 6 6 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 21000 miles £7,995
2006 (56) MAZDA 6 6 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) MAZDA 2 2 CAPELLA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles £6,495
2007 (56) MAZDA 2 2 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles £5,995

SUZUKI

2009 (B) SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 16V ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLUE, 13000 miles £12,995
2009 (59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 450 miles £9,495
2009 (59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £8,995

TOYOTA

2007 (6) TOYOTA RAV-4 XT3 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4x4, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles £13,995
2007 (07) TOYOTA RAV-4 XT3 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLUE, 16000 miles £13,995
2007 (07) TOYOTA RAV-4 XT3 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4x4, GREY, 16000 miles £13,995
2007 (07) TOYOTA COROLLA VERSO T3 VVT-I MPV AUTO, RED, 25000 miles £9,995
2007 (57) TOYOTA AVENSIS T3-X VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 19000 miles £9,995
2007 (07) TOYOTA COROLLA T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £8,995
2007 (07) TOYOTA AURIS T3 VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles £8,995
2008 (08) TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, VENETIAN SILVER, 14000 miles £7,995
2007 (56) TOYOTA COROLLA T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, IXION BLUE, 13000 miles £7,995
2006 (55) TOYOTA YARIS VERSO T3 VVT-I MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £7,495
2005 (55) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 5000 miles £7,495
2004 (54) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles £6,995
2005 (55) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 3DR HATCH AUTO, CRYSTAL SILVER, 5000 miles £6,995
2004 (54) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1750 miles £6,995
2007 (07) TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 21000 miles £6,995
2004 (04) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, CRYSTAL SILVER, 6000 miles £6,295
2007 (57) TOYOTA AYGO VVT-I+ 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles £5,995
2007 (57) TOYOTA AYGO VVT-I+ 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £5,495
2004 (04) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 25000 miles £5,495

NISSAN

2010 (10) NISSAN QASHQAI N-TEC 4WD SPORTS UTILITY VEHICLE AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles £19,995
2008 (58) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £14,495
2008 (08) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £13,995
2010 (10) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1000 miles £11,995
2007 (57) NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 4000 miles £11,995
2009 (09) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, BEIGEBUFF, 5000 miles £9,495
2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £8,995
2009 (59) NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, GREY, 1800 miles £8,995
2009 (59) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 7000 miles £8,495
2009 (59) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles £8,495
2010 (10) NISSAN PIXO N-TEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 500 miles £7,995
2009 (58) NISSAN MICRA 25 ANNIVERSARY 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles £7,995
2008 (08) NISSAN NOTE ACENTA MPV AUTO, RED, 14000 miles £7,995
2007 (07) NISSAN MICRA SPORT CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £7,995
2006 (06) NISSAN MICRA CC SPORT CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles £6,995
2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles £6,995
2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 18000 miles £6,995
2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 14000 miles £5,995
2006 (56) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles £5,995
2004 (04) NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO, ARUBA BLUE, 12000 miles £4,995
2004 (54) NISSAN ALMERA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £4,495
2002 (02) NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 19000 miles £2,995

ASTRA HATCHBACKS

2010 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA SE 5DR NEW MODEL HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £13,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA EXCLUSIV 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 1000 miles £9,995
2009 (59) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 2000 miles £7,995
2009 (09) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 10000 miles £6,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, PANACOTTA, 13000 miles £6,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles £6,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BEIGEBUFF, 14000 miles £6,495
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE 5DR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 17000 miles £5,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles £5,995

ASTRA ESTATES

2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £7,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, SILVER, 14000 miles £6,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, PANNACOTTA, 15000 miles £6,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles £6,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles £6,995
2006 (56) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, PANACOTTA, 13000 miles £6,495
2006 (56) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles £5,995

ZAFIRA MERIVA & AGILA

2009 (59) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, BLACK, 750 miles £13,995
2009 (09) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, GREEN, 7000 miles £12,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL MERIVA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £10,995
2009 (59) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles £8,995
2009 (09) VAUXHALL AGILA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £8,995
2007 (07) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles £8,495
2006 (56) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING, 16000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, TURQUOISE, 13000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 16000 miles £7,495
2008 (08) VAUXHALL AGILA CLUB MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £7,495
2007 (07) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles £6,995
2006 (56) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles £6,495
2008 (58) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 7000 miles £5,995
2004 (54) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 78000 miles £3,995

CHRYSLER

2007 (57) CHRYSLER PT CRUISER LIMITED 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 13000 miles £6,995

PEUGEOT

2007 (57) PEUGEOT 307 SW SE ESTATE AUTO, RED, 12000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) PEUGEOT 207 SPORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles £7,495
2010 (10) PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £7,495
2007 (57) PEUGEOT 206 LOOK 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 2000 miles £6,995
2007 (07) PEUGEOT 307 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 17000 miles £6,495
2007 (07) PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 2-TRONIC 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 4000 miles £5,495

MITSUBISHI

2007 (57) MITSUBISHI LANCER ELEGANCE ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 19000 miles £6,995

HONDA

2007 (07) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, GREY, 24000 miles £17,995
2007 (07) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 19000 miles £15,995
2007 (07) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, GREY, 11000 miles £15,995
2007 (07) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC SPORT ESTATE AUTO 4x4, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 23000 miles £13,995
2006 (06) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC SE ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 26000 miles £11,995
2009 (58) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles £10,995
2009 (09) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 3000 miles £10,995
2008 (58) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles £10,495
2007 (07) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 8000 miles £8,995
2005 (54) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 33000 miles £5,995

MERCEDES

2009 (09) MERCEDES-BENZ CLK CLK200 KOMPRESSOR AVANTGARDE CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 20000 miles £26,000
2007 (57) MERCEDES-BENZ C CLASS C180K AVANTGARDE SE SALOON AUTO, CUBANITE SILVER, 23000 miles £13,995
2008 (57) MERCEDES-BENZ C CLASS C180 KOMPRESSOR SE SPORTS COUPE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 22000 miles £13,995
2008 (58) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A170 AVANTGARDE SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles £13,995
2009 (09) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 AVANTGARDE SE 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 16000 miles £12,995
2007 (07) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 20000 miles £8,995
2003 (53) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A140 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 46000 miles £4,995

VOLKSWAGEN

2010 (10) VOLKSWAGEN POLO SE DSG 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles £12,995
2008 (57) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FSI 115 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 17000 miles £11,995
2006 (06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles £9,995
2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 17000 miles £9,995
2007 (57) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles £9,995
2007 (57) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles £9,995
2007 (57) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1400 miles £8,995
2008 (58) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH 3DR AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles £8,995
2007 (57) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 18000 miles £7,995
2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 13000 miles £7,995
2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S (80BHP) 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles £7,495
2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 3DR HATCH AUTO, REFLEX SILVER, 16000 miles £7,495
2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 22000 miles £6,995
2002 (02) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 54000 miles £3,695
2001 (Y) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 71000 miles £3,495
2001 (Y) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH, RED, 63000 miles £2,995

DIESEL AUTOMATICS

2009 (09) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, GREEN, 7000 miles £12,995
2007 (07) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC PRIVILEGE DCI 130 FAP 5STR TD MPV AUTO, GOLD, 9000 miles £9,995

MORRIS'S MANUAL CARS

2007 (57) MAZDA 5 5 TS2 MPV, BLUE, 12000 miles £8,495
2007 (57) VAUXHALL MERIVA ENERGY CDTI TD MPV, BLACK, 24000 miles £6,995
2008 (08) HYUNDAI MATRIX CLASSIC MPV, BLACK, 8000 miles £5,995
2006 (56) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V TWINPORT 3DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 miles £5,495
2004 (04) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 25000 miles £5,495
2007 (07) KIA PICANTO LS 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 17000 miles £4,995
2008 (58) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE PLUS 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 3000 miles £4,995
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SKODA

2008 (58) SKODA ROOMSTER 2 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £8,995

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VISA Electron

FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

Van twins share number one slot

TWO van clones, the Vauxhall Movano and Renault Master, have been voted number one in the sector's prestigious What Van? Awards.

They landed the overall Van of the Year title and the Large Panel Van of the Year award.

"The Vauxhall Movano and Renault Master are excellent new additions to the light commercial vehicle market and have proved themselves to be worthy recipients of the top What Van? Award," said What Van? editor Paul Barker.

"The increased breadth of range, including rear-wheel drive models for the first time, and industry-leading levels of interior functionality in particular swayed the judges' decision."

Other winners were: Small Van – Ford Fiesta; Light Van – Fiat Doblo Cargo; Small Panel Van – VW Transporter; Pick-up – Mitsubishi L200; One-Stop Shop Award – Citroën; Minibus – Ford Transit; 4x4 Van – Ford Transit AWD; Safety Award – Mercedes; Green Award – VCA; Technology Award – Renault Kangoo ZE; and Editor's Choice Award – Renault brand.

Electric appeal of new Vauxhall Ampera

VAUXHALL seems to be out in front in the electric race.

Its Ampera model arrives next year with confirmation that it qualifies for a government plug-in car grant of £5,000, meaning that it will be available from £28,995.

If that still sounds like a lot, remember most of the time the car will be running on a few pence worth of electricity from the household mains or one of the charging points already sprouting in some cities.

In addition, unlike several other all-electric rivals, the Ampera and the closely related Volt due to arrive from sister brand Chevrolet, also has a 'range extender' engine on board to boost the batteries if the original plug-in charge starts to run out. This counters one of the biggest worries about electric cars: what happens when the 'juice' runs out?

In the Vauxhall's case an all-electric range of 50 miles can be boosted to 360 if the small conventional engine starts lending a hand. Running costs will also be aided by exemption from road tax and company car tax rating of just five per cent.

A full charge for the Ampera's battery can be achieved in less than four hours via a domestic 240v electricity socket at an average cost of around £1.

4x4 values multiply

MARKET watchers at Glass's Guide have confirmed that 4x4 values have benefited from the recent harsh weather.

The car dealers' 'bible' produces an annual list of its top 10 three-year-old cars with the highest residual values – seven of the top 10 places were occupied by 4x4s or SUVs (sports utility vehicles) and the list was dominated by off-road brand Land Rover:

1) Volkswagen Tiguan
3) Honda CR-V
4) = Land Rover Freelander 2 (pictured)
4) = Audi Q7
6) Land Rover Discovery 3
8) Nissan Qashqai
9) Range Rover

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TO 10 10 Mazda6 2.2d £19,000

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Variations on a theme works

DrivingReview

by STEVE LOADER
CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Hyundai ix20

CLONING cars can be tricky. Giant American carmakers have come to grief thinking that buyers will settle for a bit of badge engineering and it almost certainly contributed to the demise of the former BMC/British Leyland.

On the other hand, Toyota, Peugeot and Citroën have shown how subtle cosmetics can keep disparate bands of customers happy in the case of their city car clone – the Aygo, 107 and C1 respectively.

And now Hyundai has brought out what appears to be a simple variation on the theme of the Venga mini-MPV launched by sister brand Kia earlier this year.

Except the Hyundai ix20 is no simple cloning exercise; impressive though the Kia is and coming as it does with a seven-year/100,000-mile warranty, the Hyundai is a better car for arriving late to the party and still has that brand's five-year/unlimited mileage warranty.

Indeed, Kia's design chief Peter Schreyer – the man who sculpted the original Audi TT – might be miffed that the sister brand has even stolen the styling honours here.

For the ix20 disguises its relatively dumpy proportions even better than the Venga, helped by an aggressive nose with a hexagonal grille that draws the eye with distinctive crackle glaze meshing.

The interior is also far superior in style and quality to the Kia, though ix20 prices start at £11,595 – just 100 quid more than the Venga.

The big talking point though is the chassis; Hyundai has used the extra few months of pre-launch time to work on the ix20's handling so it feels tighter yet has a more settled ride.

Indeed, a long-range jaunt in our mid-spec 1.4CRDi Active model kept prompting praise for the comfort of the seats and the ride on what were some pretty challenging roads.

It also re-opened a debate I keep having on the choice of engine for the Venga/ix20; I dismissed the diesel as too noisy and expensive upfront in the case of the Kia, but the Hyundai appears to have had some extra effort made in the NVH (noise, vibration and harshness) department that makes it harder to dismiss the £1,400 price difference between petrol and diesel.

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Official fuel consumption figures mpg (l/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km): Lowest: Savvy Style MT: urban 36.7 (7.7), extra urban 61.4 (4.6), combined 49.6 (5.7), CO_2 134; Highest: Savvy Style AMT: urban 36.7 (7.7), extra urban 62.8 (4.5), combined 49.6 (5.7) CO_2 134

*Price shown is for Savvy 1.2 Style MT; manufacturer's list price £7,995 excluding metallic which is an option at £365. On the road price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months' road fund licence and first registration fee. [1]£750 Finance deposit offer is available to people aged 18 and over, subject to status, when purchasing a new Proton vehicle through Proton Finance Ltd. Minimum 10% deposit required for 'pay later' offer upon order. Indemnities may be required. Excludes Motability and fleet sales. Available at participating dealers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers Proton Finance Ltd., registered address 116 Cockfosters Road, Barnet, EN4 0DY is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Finance Offers and 31st December 2010. ^Free servicing offer available at participating dealers only on Savvy 1.2 Style MT or AMT until 31st December 2010. ‡Warranty is subject to maintenance in accordance with manufacturer's schedules, 3 year or 60,000 miles. Terms & conditions apply to all offers.

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better on all-new ix20

The diesel will average more than 60mpg, but the petrol – offering an identical 89bhp – should still return 50mpg, so it could be some while before the diesel's economy recovers the higher list price.

Nevertheless, with the Hyundai's greater refinement and comfort in all situations, the petrol versus diesel debate is far harder to call and both engines come with Hyundai's eco-friendly ISG (Intelligent Stop & Go) to automatically kill and revive the engine in turgid traffic conditions.

For those who must have an auto, there is also a 1.6-litre petrol option from £14,095, but it does not have the ISG and will average only just above 40mpg.

On a practical note, the ix20 is nigh on unbeatable at the price; the Venga is obviously a close match and the Nissan Note is worth a look – though it's an older design – while the Honda Jazz is pricey and the ride won't be to everyone's taste.

But the Hyundai is a great and stylish all-rounder, compact overall with a capacious cabin allowed by a long wheelbase. The rear bench is a genuine three-seater with a flat floor across the entire car – no discomfort for 'piggy in the middle' then – and the 'van' space liberated by folding the rear seats flat is huge.

There is a bonus too – a useful underfloor stowage area above the spare wheel. Cabin cubbies are everywhere and the ix20 comes with a foolproof USB connector as part of a comprehensive array of features.

For most families this Hyundai will fit the bill – literally.

DrivingPortfolio

HYUNDAI IX20 1.4 CRDI ACTIVE £14,095

Driving appeal (OUT OF FIVE)	★★★★★
Image	★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
How green?	★★★★
Road tax	£30/year
Best rival	Nissan Note

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE: anything strongly – the ix20 is more of a crowd-pleaser.

NOT SURE: some people will overcome prejudice for the badge (I know, I've said it before).

REALLY LIKE: how Hyundai has ignored a straight cloning of the Kia Venga – here is real choice.

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*A £10 option fee and a £139 arrangement fee are payable with the first monthly payment.
** A final credit arrangement fee of £149 is payable with the final monthly payment.

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CHEVROLET

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08433 160 842
www.chevroletlocal.co.uk/caffyns/tunbridgewells

Motability

Financed by GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff CF15 7YT. Offer is subject to status, availability and terms and conditions. Applicants must be aged 18 or over. Offers are available for registrations and orders placed between 09/07/10 and 30/11/10 and are subject to availability. Offers may not apply to all retailer stocks and may not be used in conjunction with any other offer, UK supplied vehicles only. Available at participating Retailers only. Not in conjunction with any other offer.
Prices correct at time of press. Licenced credit brokers, Finance is subject to status, written details available on request. Vehicles shown for illustration purposes only.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.2LS 5dr: Urban 39.2 (7.2), Extra Urban 61.4 (4.6), Combined 51.4 (5.5), CO2 Emissions 119 g/km.

0224

The VAUXHALL

COUNTDOWN

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VAUXHALL LIFETIME WARRANTY

Pomphreys
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01795 476222
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Website: www.pomphreys.co.uk

VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 16.5 (17.1) – 61.4 (4.6), Extra-urban: 32.8 (8.6) – 88.3 (3.2), Combined: 24.2 (11.7) – 76.3 (3.7). CO_2 emissions: 274 – 98g/km.

20% saving applies to list price only and excludes options, delivery and other charges. Offer applies to selected retailer stocks at participating retailers only for vehicles registered between 27.12.10 and 31.01.11. Offer cannot be combined with any other offer, except GM Card. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

Amazing savings on pre-reg Vauxhall models!

Plus save up to £1000 with WJ King Swappage!^

VAUXHALL LIFETIME WARRANTY

All cars come with Vauxhall Lifetime warranty. Most cars are with metallic paint, delivery mileage only!

Auto option available

60 Plate Agila Club 1.2i 16v 5dr A/C
From only £8495
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60 Plate Astra Exclusive 1.4i 16v 87PS 5dr
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RRP £17492 +VAT SAVE £4997+VAT

Stock units only, hurry, limited period only!

† Typical finance example for Vauxhall Agila as advertised. *Including Credit Facility Fee and Completion Fee.

CASH PRICE	DEPOSIT	AMOUNT FINANCED	FIRST PAYMENT	58 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	1 FINAL PAYMENT	INTEREST CHARGES	TOTAL CHARGE FOR CREDIT*	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	9.9% TYPICAL APR†
£8495	£850	£7645	£158.85	£158.85	£277.85	£1686.50	£2004.50	£10499.50	

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Dartford 01322 227581
Rochester 01634 723723
Gravesend 01474 565656
Bromley 020 8464 3456

VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 16.5 (17.1) – 61.4 (4.6), Extra-urban: 32.8 (8.6) – 88.3 (3.2), Combined: 24.2 (11.7) – 76.3 (3.7). CO2 emissions: 274 – 98g/km.

Offers are based on selected vehicles. ^The Vauxhall Swappage Scheme applies to customers trading in a qualifying car or commercial vehicle (up to 3.5 tonnes) against the purchase of a selected pre-reg Vauxhall model. At the date of registration the vehicle traded in must have been 7 years old or older from date of first registration in the UK. To qualify for the scheme, the owner of the traded vehicle (or their spouse/partner living at the same UK address) must be named as the registered keeper and resident at the UK address shown on the Vehicle Registration Document (V5C) and have owned the vehicle for a minimum of 90 days. The new vehicle must be registered at the same address. The vehicle must have a valid MOT and road tax (or that has expired no earlier than 14 days prior to the new vehicle order date) and be insured at the date of the new vehicle order. The Vauxhall Swappage Scheme cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. All Swappage discounts are inclusive of VAT. For full details on Lifetime Warranty, visit www.vauxhall.co.uk, terms and conditions apply. †Finance supplied by Barclays Partner Finance, PO Box 3979, Glasgow G51 1YL, subject to status, over 18's only, a guarantee may be required, written quotations available on request. Savings shown are against MRRP at time of publication. Prices shown are available on selected WJ King stock vehicles only whilst stocks last and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offers apply to selected vehicles, orders from 1st November 2010 to 31st December 2010, invoiced and paid before 3rd January 2011. Please note, models portrayed are for illustration purposes only and may not represent actual model. A £59 inc. VAT admin fee (security checks and fuel) will be added to all vehicle purchases, this includes £20 worth of fuel. WJ King reserves the right to withdraw any offer at any time. Telephone calls may be recorded for training purposes. E&OE.

ALFA ROMEO

147, TS TURISMO, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors split folding rear seats sports seats trip computer curtain airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls adjustable steering column rear headrests 3x3 point rear seat belts heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat space saver spare wheel, red, 14500 miles, £6500, Tunbridge Wells, 08448 759297 (TRADE)

147, TS TURISMO, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors split folding rear seats sports seats trip computer curtain airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls adjustable steering column rear headrests 3x3 point rear seat belts heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat space saver spare wheel, red, 14500 miles, £6500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

147, TS TURISMO, 2008, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys cd player central locking climate control electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors split folding rear seats sports seats trip computer curtain airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls adjustable steering column rear headrests 3x3 point rear seat belts heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat space saver spare wheel, red, 14500 miles, £6500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

159, 1.9 JTDM 16v LUSSO, 2008, abs brakes air con alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, alfa red, 70000 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

159, 2.4 JTDM LUSSO, 2007, abs brakes air con alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 28347 miles, £11000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

159, 3.2 V6 JTS Q4 LUSSO, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player climate control electric windows immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers height adj drivers seat, black, 30376 miles, £11000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

AUDI

A3, 2.0T FSI S LINE DSG, 2006, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers rear headrests 3x3 point rear seat belts heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat space saver spare wheel, grey, 84428 miles, £8750, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A3, 1.6 3dr, bf03hbk, twin air bags, abs, power steering, adjustable steering column, remote alarm, immobiliser, electric mirrors, electric windows, stereo, cloth upholstery, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, height adjustable seat, rear headrests, cambelt changed, alloy wheels, *** full pre-delivery inspection, full safety check, free 6 months fully comprehensive warranty, 12 months mot, structured service & warranty packages to suit your individual needs, free 7 days fully comprehensive insurance, professional after sales care, p/x welcome, finance available (subject to status) ***, black, 39000 miles, £4295, Maidstone, 01622 842299 (TRADE)

A3, 2.0 TDi SE Auto 3dr, eo04yzn, climate control, traction control, abs, cd player, remote alarm, remote central locking, adjustable steering column, power steering, twin air bags, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, electric windows, alloy wheels, mot until 29/08/11 and tax until end 02/11. black, 78000 miles, £6995, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

A4, A4 T QUATTRO SE, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted cd player central locking cruise control electric windows front fog lights metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering remote central locking roof bars adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, green, 53312 miles, £6000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A4, 1.9 TDi 130 SPORT, 2003, blue, 140000 miles, £5000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TT, 2.0t, 2006, silver, 64000 miles, £14500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

TT, 2.0T FSI, 2006, silver, 63000 miles, £14500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

TT, 1.8 T QUATTRO, 2003, blue, 63000 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BMW

1 SERIES, 116i M Sport 1.6, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering sports seats trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, sapphire black, 42868 miles, £11500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

1 SERIES, 120d Sport, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player traction control front parking sensors, black, 44450 miles, £11000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 320i se auto, 2005, titanium silver met with black shadow cloth, 44000 miles, £8850, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 330 m sport auto convertible, 2002, titanium silver metallic with dakota black sport l, 76000 miles, £6850, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 330d se auto coupe, 2006, black metallic with black dakota leather, 71000 miles, £13850, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 325ci convertible, 2001, red with black dakota leather, 45000 miles, £6850, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 525d se, 2004, olivin metallic with black dakota leather, 101000 miles, £7850, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 525d se touring, 2005, grey metallic with grey cloth interior, 116000 miles, £7850, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 530i se auto, 2004, grey metallic with black dakota leather, 51000 miles, £8850, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

Z4, SPORT, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint leather interior power steering, blue with beige leather, 27000 miles, £14990, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

Z4, 2.0i SE, 2006, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control remote central locking, space grey, 39535 miles, £10000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CITROEN

BERLINGO, Multispace Desire HDi, cv55ojf, air conditioning, parking sensor, electric mirrors, electric windows, twin sunroofs, twin air bags, colour coded body, central locking, immobiliser, cd player, beige metallic, 40000 miles, £4999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 600 LX HDI With Side Loading Door, km08vou, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, ply-lined, side load door, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, air bag, electric mirrors, electric windows, cd player, radio, white, 34000 miles, £4745, Sittingbourne, 01795 403295 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6HDI Refrigerated Chiller / Freezer, aaaaaa, cd player, power steering, electric windows, electric mirrors, remote central locking, brand new. delivery mileage. grp lined. hubbard fridge standby available if required (optional extra). over 50 fridge vans in stock. BHRV.co.uk (m), white, 15 miles, £9995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 600 LX HDi Refrigerated Chiller Freezer, kr07xoy, side load door, cd player, electric windows, electric mirrors, immobiliser, remote central locking, grp lined. gah equipment. electric standby available if required. over fifty fridge vans in stock. www.BHRV.co.uk, white, 27000 miles, £7595, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 6001.6hdi Refrigerated Freezer / Chiller, ex07hhj, cd player, air bag, abs, immobiliser, remote central locking, power steering, grp lined. gah fridge. full freezer spec to -20. over fifty fridge vans in stock. www.BHRV.co.uk, white, 37000 miles, £7995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

C1, VT, 2009, cd player drivers airbag power steering split folding rear seats, grey, 9400 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C1, VT (Plus Delivery), 2010, abs brakes central locking drivers airbag immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, black, 10 miles, £6200, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

C1, 1.4, 2008, cd player drivers airbag, red, 55 miles, £11000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C1, 1.4, 2008, grey, 6978 miles, £11200, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C1, Rhythm, 2008, black, 13500 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C2, 1.6, 2008, red, 50 miles, £12000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FIAT

500, 1.2 Lounge 3dr Hatch, lt09wfo, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, drivers airbag, space saver spare wheel, isofix child seat anchor points, body coloured bumpers, height adjustable drivers seat, audio remote control, bossa nova white metallic, 2575 miles, £8995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 Lounge 3dr Hatch, gd59hgn, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, drivers airbag, space saver spare wheel, isofix child seat anchor points, body coloured bumpers, height adjustable drivers seat, audio remote control, silver metallic, 5000 miles, £8995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 Lounge 3dr Hatch, gl10svk, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, drivers airbag, space saver spare wheel, isofix child seat anchor points, body coloured bumpers, height adjustable drivers seat, audio remote control, white metallic, 200 miles, £10865, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 Sport 3dr Hatch, rf09fon, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, front fog lights, radio/cd, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, drivers airbag, space saver spare wheel, height adjustable drivers seat, isofix child seat anchor points, body coloured bumpers, sports seats, bossa nova white metallic, 5075 miles, £8495, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

500, 1.4 SPORT, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows full service history half leather trim immobiliser multiple airbags power steering sports seats tinted glass tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags lumbar support rear headrests height adj drivers seat space saver spare wheel, bossanova white, 15611 miles, £7900, Tunbridge Wells, 08448 759297 (TRADE)

BRAVO, Dynamic T-Jet, 2009, techno grey, 7000 miles, £8000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.4 TJet 150 Active, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black, 23562 miles, £6500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.4, 2008, black, 55 miles, £10000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BRAVO, SX, 1996, central locking electric windows immobiliser, white, 85000 miles, £4000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2009, abs brakes cd player central locking electric windows power steering, crossover black, 18124 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser, blue, 55 miles, £12000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2008, cd player drivers airbag, blue, 255 miles, £14500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MULTIPLA, 1.9, 2008, black, 55 miles, £19700, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MULTIPLA, 2.0, 2008, black, 55 miles, £15000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MULTIPLA, 1.9, 2008, blue, 55 miles, £19580, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

PANDA, 1.1, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser, burnt orange, 55 miles, £10000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

PANDA, 1.2 DYNAMIC ECO, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags trip computer body coloured bumpers heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, new orleans blue, 6 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BMW 320 TD ES COMPACT
Reg Jan 2004
3-door, 1995cc diesel, 155 bhp, 6 gears.
BMW service history.
In good condition.
MoT March 2011.
Tax July 2011.
£4,500
Tel: 07882 605378

FORD

C-MAX, 5, cv57ugo, insurance group 7 abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment steering wheel reach adjustment 1 owner service history, moondust silver, 36000 miles, £6000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Edge, 2010, moondust silver, 8000 miles, £9995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Edge, 2010, tango red, 8000 miles, £10495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Flame, 2003, panther black, 71700 miles, £3495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Edge, 2010, colorado red, 2000 miles, £9995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Zetec Blue, 2008, moondust silver, 14000 miles, £6995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec, 2009, avalon, 9900 miles, £9995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 ZETEC SORY NO 0% AS REDECED TO CLEAR, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering trip computer remote central locking multi functional tunepoint (i-pod and mp3 connection) quickclear windscreen remote audio controls body coloured bumpers, avalon, 34043 miles, £7899, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FOCUS, ZETEC 1.6 5DR, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats tinted glass curtain airbags remote central locking quickclear windscreen remote audio controls, sea grey, 5180 miles, £10580, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 ZETEC WITH SPORT PACK, 2010, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels bluetooth car kit central locking diesel electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering tinted glass trip computer remote central locking quickclear windscreen remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers, ocean blue, 13423 miles, £11999, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FUSION, Style, 2007, blue, 7259 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FUSION, Zetec, 2007, tonic, 24180 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FUSION, 1.4, 2008, black, 55 miles, £14000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FUSION, Zetec, 2007, tango red, 4574 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FUSION, 1.4, 2008, red, 50 miles, £14000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

GALAXY, Ghia, 2009, abs brakes air cond alloys drivers airbag front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering isofix child seat points, silver, 33335 miles, £16100, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GALAXY, Ix, 2001, abs brakes electric windows immobiliser power steering, metallic green, 104000 miles, £3500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GALAXY, ZETEC 1.8TD, 2007, abs brakes alarm fitted full service history immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, ink blue, 11590 miles, £13600, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

KA, Style +, 2010, dive, 5000 miles, £8495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

KA, Studio, 2009, scuba, 5300 miles, £6295, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

KA, Studio, 2010, sunrise, 5 miles, £7495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

KA, Zetec Two-Tone, 2008, ocean blue/silver, 17000 miles, £4995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

KUGA, 2.0, 2008, cd player cruise control leather interior power steering, noir, 10 miles, £20000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

KUGA, 2.0, 2008, alloy wheels cd player multiple airbags, blue, 55 miles, £25490, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

HONDA

ACCORD, 2.2i CTDi Executive 4dr, 2005, abs brakes alarm fitted cruise control electric windows front fog lights multi cd player leather interior multiple airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls electric sunroof adjustable steering column front armrest body coloured bumpers rear armrest rear headrests 3x3 point rear seat belts heated door mirrors, blue, 47000 miles, £6495, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

ACCORD, i-VTEC Executive, 2004, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels central locking cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, silver, 75800 miles, £5000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CIVIC, Type R GT, 2008, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver, 16800 miles, £14000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CIVIC, ES ELITE PACK PLUS, 2010, abs brakes alloy wheels bluetooth car kit climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights metallic paint power fold mirrors power steering trip computer remote central locking adjustable steering column rear headrests 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, black, 2010 miles, £17000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 2.2 i-CDTi SE, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers rear headrests height adj drivers seat, tbc, 46000 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CR-V, i-VETC SE, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning automatic transmission drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player remote central locking, green, 70000 miles, £5000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CR-V, ES, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats tonneau cover trip computer panoramic sunroof rear headrests height adj drivers seat, black, 49677 miles, £15000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CR-V, CTDi ES, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering single cd player trip computer remote central locking adjustable steering column height adj drivers seat, grey, 86661 miles, £11300, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FR-V, SE, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking full service history immobiliser power steering remote central locking, blue, 35202 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FR-V, SE, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking full service history immobiliser power steering remote central locking, blue, 35202 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FR-V, SE, 2005, abs brakes air con cd player central locking full service history immobiliser remote central locking, blue, 35202 miles, £8000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

INSIGHT, ES, 2010, abs brakes air con alloys automatic transmission central locking climate control electric windows metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags single cd player remote central locking, cerulean blue, 5000 miles, £14800, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

INSIGHT, ES, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission central locking climate control electric windows metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags single cd player remote central locking, cerulean blue, 5000 miles, £14800, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

JAZZ, 1.4SPORT, 2007, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history metallic paint power fold mirrors, storm grey, 31996 miles, £7000, Maidstone, 08448 759296 (TRADE)

JAZZ, 1.4SPORT, 2005, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control electric windows metallic paint power fold mirrors, storm grey, 60856 miles, £5500, Maidstone, 08448 759296 (TRADE)

KIA

CARENS, GS AUTO, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats twin airbags remote central locking body coloured bumpers rear headrests heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, star silver, 5800 miles, £9000, Maidstone, 08448 759296 (TRADE)

CARENS, 2.0 TD Sr, 2008, blue, 164 miles, £16000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CARENS, 2.0, 2008, black, 56 miles, £16100, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CARENS, 2.0 TD Sr, 2008, blue, 164 miles, £16000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CARENS, GS, 2009, silver, 32343 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CARENS, 2.0, 2008, black, 44 miles, £16100, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CEED, 2.0 CRDi Sport, 2008, abs brakes alarm fitted cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser, silver, 55 miles, £16700, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CEED, CRDI, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels power steering, silver, 35844 miles, £7700, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CEED, 1.6 CRDi 3, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights half leather trim immobiliser multiple airbags power steering remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 35237 miles, £10000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CEED, 2.0, 2008, red, 55 miles, £16750, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CEED, CRDi GS, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking electric windows metallic paint multiple airbags remote central locking, blue, 12022 miles, £8450, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CEED, CRDI LS, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels power steering, black, 33824 miles, £9300, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CEED, CRDI LS, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels power steering, silver, 35729 miles, £9200, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CEED, 2.0, 2008, blue, 55 miles, £16600, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

PICANTO, LS 1.1 5DR, 2007, cd player central locking electric windows metallic paint power steering, blue, 33000 miles, £4000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

PICANTO, 1.0 GS, 2005, abs brakes central locking electric windows immobiliser power steering, galaxy black, 26972 miles, £3000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

PICANTO, 1.1 ICE, 2008, central locking electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering twin airbags remote central locking, ice blue, 7500 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

PICANTO, LS 1.1 5DR, 2007, cd player central locking electric windows metallic paint power steering, blue, 33000 miles, £4000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

PICANTO, LX, 2006, abs brakes air con alarm fitted cd player central locking electric windows full service history power steering tinted glass remote central locking isofix child seat points rear armrest 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, red, 49800 miles, £2850, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

RIO, Rio3 1.4 Auto, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering front passenger air bag deactivation switch isofix child seat points 3x3 point rear seat belts space saver spare wheel, red, 12000 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

RIO, Rio3 1.4 Auto, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering front passenger air bag deactivation switch isofix child seat points 3x3 point rear seat belts space saver spare wheel, red, 12000 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

SEDONA, 2.5 V6 SE 7 SEATS, 2003, abs brakes air con alloys cd player electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking electric sunroof, emerald green, 51152 miles, £4000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

SORENTO, 2.5, 2008, black, 55 miles, £27500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

IT'S a safe bet that the internet will be even more crucial to company survival in 2011, so see our report on top tips for web style. And there's news of a novelty paying dividends for a farmers' market. The impending VAT rise weighs heavily on the business community (see lead story), but one firm has turned the increase into a sales pitch – see inside.

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Santa's spies are on the festive case

IN THIS day and age of checks and reviews, not even Father Christmas can escape scrutiny.

The jolly, red-faced fellow is now the target of a 'mystery shopper' firm, keen to investigate whether Santa's grotto delivers the full festive experience.

And if he and his helpers fall short, the shop in question receives advice on how to improve.

With much of hard-pressed retailers' profitability vested in the festive season, it is perhaps no wonder that mystery shopping and customer service expert Shopper Anonymous Kent says it has seen a huge jump in demand from shops and tourist attractions, anxious to have their Christmas grotto vetted.

Families are going undercover to report on their experiences, including customer service, price, length of queues, friendliness of elves,

quality of the presents and even Santa's 'Ho ho ho' catchphrase. Shopper Anonymous director Graham Seymour said a visit to Father Christmas isn't just judged on whether a child is captivated or bursts into tears on Santa's knee.

"Visiting Father Christmas in his grotto is a major part of the build-up to Christmas for many families and, like any other purchase, they expect value for money," he said.

"Some retailers and attractions set out to make the whole visit magical, from actors in character entertaining children in the queue and creating an entire Christmas walk-through wonderland, to good quality gifts and even photos taken with the man with the big white beard.

"At its worst, however, visiting Father Christmas can feel like a rip-off, with hour-long queues followed by an untrained man dressed as Santa getting grumpy with frightened children then palming them off with some cheap tat but still charging top dollar."

Resentment and alarm over VAT rise upheaval

BUSINESSES in Kent are split about how they will cope with the VAT hike to 20 per cent on January 4 – and they also resent the upheaval.

Six out of 10 expect the rise from 17.5 per cent to hit their cashflow, and one in 10 fear it will really clobber their trading.

The findings follow a survey by the accountancy profession's voice, the ICAEW, which has also urged companies to start preparing for the new rate before they are inundated by the Christmas rush and festive and New Year holidays.

The body's regional director, Fay Webster, said: "Businesses in the South East have faced a number of admin burdens over the past two years as the VAT rate was first reduced to 15 per cent, then restored to 17.5 per cent and now to be increased to 20 per cent.

"At a time when companies are facing a tough 2011, having to change the VAT rate is not a good way to start the New Year. Many will be worried about the effect it will have on sales in the first quarter, but preparation is the key to help ensure the transition is smooth."

Businesses affected by the VAT increase are also divided on how to deal with it. Thirty-six per cent say they will absorb the costs within the business; 30 per cent expect to increase their prices and the remaining 34 per cent plan a mix of both actions.

Furthermore, Government fiddling with VAT rates over the last two years has made it the most burdensome administrative task for 33 per cent of firms, though it is still surpassed by payroll (50 per cent). Corporation tax (12 per cent) makes up the balance.

On a practical note, the ICAEW advised:

- If there is an overlap of goods and/or services around January 4, 2011, the VAT charge can be split on a fair and reasonable basis so that 17.5 per cent tax is charged on the value of supplies before January 4 and 20 per cent on work carried out after this date.
- Credit notes or refunds are based on the same rate of VAT charged on the original sale. The same goes for VAT claimed on bad debts.
- Non-VAT registered businesses considering a capital investment ought to consider bringing it forward to benefit from the cheaper rate.
- HMRC is less likely to be lenient on companies' delays and errors this time as they are expected to be more used to VAT changes and there has been sufficient notice given.
- Are the relevant accounts employees going to be available at the beginning of January to sort out queries?

Cedric powers to the top

BUSINESSMAN Cedric Frederick has been named – for the second time – as one of Britain's most influential black people.

It follows the Avante Partnership chief executive's inclusion in the 2011 Powerlist, in recognition of his work for the Kent-based charitable organisation, a leading provider of residential care homes and care at home services in the South East.

The Faversham-based Partnership employs 2,000 staff and volunteers serving more than 5,000 older people, children, young people and families in its 16 homes and out in the community.

Mr Frederick, who was also named in the 2009 Powerlist, said: "This is a great honour for myself and others listed from the world of business and commerce.

"My inclusion is also recognition of how far Avante Partnership has progressed in the two years since I arrived. We are embracing change, building on the longstanding commitment and expertise of our staff and volunteers and also helping thousands of people every day, many of whom are the most vulnerable in our society."

The Powerlist focuses on success in business finance and IT; media, publishing and entertainment; politics, law and religion; and the public sector and third sector. The list also recognises black people in science, medicine and engineering, sport, and the arts, fashion and design. It is published by Powerful Media in partnership with investment bank JP Morgan and media company Thomson Reuters.

Although there are more celebrities on the list than ever before, with model Naomi Campbell, rapper Dizzee Rascal and actor Idris Elba all making debuts this year, the Top 10 on the list is dominated by business and finance.

Mr Frederick, who is married with two sons, is also a governor at Canterbury Christ Church University, fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management and the Royal Society of Arts, member of the Institute of Directors, and on the business advisory group of the Kent Economic Board.

CEDRIC FREDERICK: 'A great honour'

Comment

IT COMES to something when Santas are targeted for 'trial by mystery shopper' (see front page story). Instead of tidings of joy it's a case of woe betide any jolly gent who can't hack it with the ho-ho-hos or falls short on elvish support.

In fact, there's something horribly Orwellian about families stalking Santa's grotto this Christmas and looking to 'grass up' the old fella.

On the other hand, it's yet another sign of a new economic reality and desire for value and efficiency evident these past few months and sure to be reinforced in 2011.

The spending review in October was more palatable than expected, though leaks and speculation beforehand made the measures easier to swallow.

But there is a view that the Government will dose us with more unpleasant medicine in the New Year, getting it out of the way so that we all feel better in time for the next General Election.

If so, Fathers Cameron and Clegg and their little helpers will be watched more carefully than any suspect Santa – the economy is delicately poised.

On one hand, economic growth this year has exceeded expectations. Manufacturing output and exports have also stepped up a gear, responding to calls by the Government and economic pundits after the much-vaunted UK financial sector helped get us into a mess three years ago.

However, the jobs market is flat and inflation has crept up. The obvious cure for the latter is hiking interest rates, but nothing gives a nasty chill faster.

Lord Young got himself the sack as an adviser to David Cameron the other week when he reprised Harold Macmillan's 'You've never had it so good' line in the context of low mortgage interest rates for homebuyers. But he had a point; if the Bank of England goes for a rise to damp down inflation then the current mood of cautious optimism could quickly evaporate.

Sorry for the lack of festivity in the above, but please don't tell – I wouldn't make a jolly Santa, would I?

BUSINESS EDITOR STEVE LOADER

'Make or break' online top tips for companies

A WEB development company has unveiled a list of easy-to-follow tips for small businesses looking to embrace online promotion and trading, ***writes Jon Coates***.

Many businesses – particularly SMEs – still overlook the web's importance or avoid investing in updating or refreshing their website, concerned about the extra cost.

Yet a website can be the make or break factor between securing essential new business or being overlooked.

Brant McNaughton, a director of Ecce Media, which is based in Orpington, said: "A website should not be seen as a cost but as a tool to add value to your business and provide a return on your investment."

Here are his top tips:

• **EASE OF USE**: A website needs to be easy to use and straightforward. People will look elsewhere if they get frustrated trying to navigate a site. The design needs to be clean and uncomplicated.

• **CLEAR PURPOSE:** What do you want the website to do? Drive more traffic to your showroom? Promote your business? Sell more products online? It can then be designed to focus on the objectives.

• **ORIGINAL, FRESH CONTENT:** The content needs to be current, original and appealing. The frequency of updates is dependent on type of business. Some need updates daily, others every couple of months. If the site has a 'news page', keep it up to date.

• **CONTACT DETAILS:** Don't risk losing a sale because someone has given up searching for contact details. Keep company contact details in the same place on every page.

• **UPDATES:** If the site is regularly updated, people are likely to visit more often. This will create more traffic and increase credibility with search engines. Invite people to join your mailing list, download brochures, follow you on Twitter and be your friend on Facebook.

• **MAKE IT INTERESTING:** Increasingly, websites are built to capture the audience visually. Photography is crucial.

PRESENCE: Your website is a tool, not a cost burden

Products are competing with showrooms and other online competitors so need to inspire. But if you capture the audience with interesting pictures, you don't want to lose them because it isn't supported with relevant information.

• **VISIBILITY TO SEARCH ENGINES:** There's no point investing in a great website if no one can find it. Make sure you are featured on search engines. Ensure your site is search engine friendly. The way the pages are structured can affect this and it is vital to get it right.

• **SPELLING AND GRAMMAR:** Check before going live or risk appearing unprofessional.

• **TESTIMONIALS:** Customer testimonials prove your reliability and quality. Assuming comments are positive, it is a good idea to highlight some of these or have a link to social media sites where these are shown.

• **USABILITY AND FUNCTIONALITY:** Don't try to reinvent the navigation of your website. Keep it simple. People expect certain things from websites and changing a well-known format could be a risk.

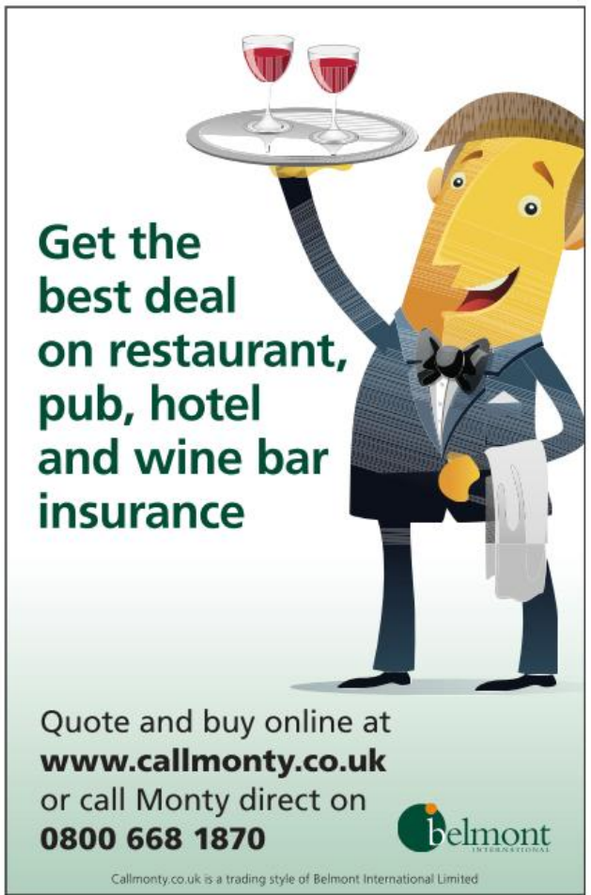
• **CONSIDER SOCIAL MEDIA:** Social media such as Facebook and Twitter can be a great way of promoting your business and maximising messages.

• **WEB STANDARDS:** Your website needs to work on a host of systems – Macs, PCs and handheld. There's no point having a site people cannot access. The Disability Discrimination Act states all websites need to be accessible to blind and disabled users. Valid coding is important to ensure your site is accessible from all internet browsers and operating systems.

• **E-COMMERCE WEBSITES:** Ensure clear product information. Make purchasing as easy as possible, eliminating as many barriers as you can. Make sure products are clearly labelled and it is easy to tell what they are and do. Purchasers need to know exactly what they are buying.

• **SAFE AND SECURE PAYMENT:** When selling online, the website needs to comply with the Distance Selling Regulations. Payment must be safe and secure both for the retailer and the purchaser.

• **TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** Adhere to rules and regulations. There are lots of terms and standards for selling from a website that must be met as a legal requirement.



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How Marlowe pantomime star John Thomson is commuting from Manchester to Manston with Flybe's 50-minute daily service

BUSINESS WEEK

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THE first high street bank to launch for more than 100 years is set to expand across Kent after securing another round of funding. Metro Bank, which opened four months ago, has completed its second round of capital raising at a 20 per cent premium to its original share price.

It can now accelerate its expansion plans. These include increasing the rate of openings across Kent, London and Surrey.

The latest round builds on the initial £75 million raised to launch the bank in July, and will enable Metro to increase its roll out in the first two years from 12 to at least 18 branches. Metro Bank was co-founded by Vernon Hill and Anthony Thomson and is based on the Commerce Bank model established in the USA. Metro Bank has an outlet in Bromley.

STAFF at a Maidstone distribution centre have improved their recycling and saved more than 360 tonnes of carbon by reducing energy use and delivery miles. NHS Supply Chain's site in St Barnabas Close supplies hospitals in Kent and London with equipment. General manager Simon Collins said: "By looking at how we use transport we have saved more than 28,000 miles. We re-worked delivery schedules and reviewed how goods were loaded into lorries to ensure the best use of space."

CONTRACTOR FM Conway has launched a professional services division with the aim of delivering highway maintenance in a more cost-effective way. The initiative comes in the wake of local council budget cuts. FM Conway's projects and professional services director, John Holliday, said: "Local authorities have requested a more cost-effective service delivery model. By coordinating activities across the highway network, eliminating duplication and streamlining admin, significant savings can be made without compromising on service levels or public safety."

FIRMS wanting to highlight their success are invited to enter the Kent Invicta Chamber Business Awards. The awards, subtitled Celebrating Business Excellence in 2011, are seeking nominations. A spokesman said: "The past 12 months has been a difficult time for many businesses. Why not get recognition for your achievements and join us in celebrating excellence?"

To download an application form, visit www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk. The closing date is February 14.

VERY TASTEFUL: Revamped dining area at The Sun Inn (inset)

Tasteful new look at transformed Sun Inn

A HISTORIC pub in Faversham has undergone an £80,000 refurbishment programme.

The Sun Inn, which dates back to the 14th century, has seen an overhaul of its bar and restaurant

Owner Shepherd Neame, the Kent brewer, expects the revamped pub to lure in plenty of custom during the hectic Christmas and New Year period.

Manager of The Sun Inn, which is close to Sheps' brewery, Brendan McBride, said: "The bar and restaurant have been transformed, though in keeping with the pub's 14th century origins. The floor and ceilings have been refurbished and we have a new back bar. The food has always been excellent, but now we have a much more comfortable environment for dining.

"A feature of the new restaurant – which can seat more people – is a 6ft wine cabinet.

"The reaction has been very positive. People love it."

Shepherd Neame retail director Nigel Bunting said: "The Sun Inn has always been popular thanks to its food and drink and we are pleased its sympathetic refurbishment will give people even more reason to pay a visit."

Cashing in on creativity

SHIPBOURNE has found a creative solution to one problem shoppers face at rural farmers' markets – a lack of cash machines, ***writes Chris Britcher.***

It has unveiled the Shipbourne Farmers' Market Pound – allowing customers to buy both £2 and £5 notes from The Chaser Inn, next door to the market, using credit or debit cards, and then redeem the notes at market stalls.

"Buying one of our pounds is just like buying a gift voucher," explained Bob Taylor, manager of the market.

"Shoppers can use the pounds themselves week in, week out, or they can make unusual and practical Christmas presents.

"None of our stallholders take debit cards, so shoppers' spending is limited by the amount of cash they have on them. We needed an answer which was cost-effective and easy to use, and working with the pub next door means we are creating a 'hole in the wall' service."

Darren Somerton, manager of the pub, said: "We have always supported the farmers' market.

"We are delighted to work with the market on this project, offering a new service to the community and a further boost to local food producers."

Shipbourne pounds are printed on special high-quality paper and each note has its own unique serial number. The initiative is backed by the Kent Farmers' Market Association.

Its chairman, Benjamin Dent, said: "This demonstrates that farmers' markets can be highly innovative and can work to mutual benefit with neighbouring businesses.

"It will encourage more sales of local produce, and help raise the profile of markets and so attract more customers. Once we've learnt any lessons from this launch, we look forward to spreading the idea throughout Kent."

The market takes place every Thursday at St Giles' Church, from 9am to 11am.

CASH COW: Shipbourne Farmers' Market pounds are available now

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Expansive VAT rise offer from Basepoint

ONE in three firms reckons the VAT rise to 20 per cent on January 4 will have a damaging effect on their business, according to a YouGov survey.

But Basepoint Business Centres has countered with a potential lifeline to smaller firms and particularly start-ups by offering 20 per cent off office rental for the whole of 2011.

The deal applies if they move in between January 1 and March 31.

Executive director Brian Andrews said: "Supporting small businesses and encouraging growth is integral to our philosophy. The VAT increase is likely to hit small firms the hardest, particularly those who are not yet VAT registered, so we hope this offer will act as an incentive for businesses that would otherwise not have been able to expand to take that step and grow."

Basepoint operates 26 business centres nationally including Kent sites at Folkestone, Canterbury (pictured left), Northfleet and Chatham.

The company is the main trading arm of grant-making UK charity the ACT Foundation.

Countdown to new Caterham

KENT sports car maker Caterham has announced it will unveil an entirely new model on January 13, ***writes Steve Loader***.

Though coy about the newcomer's looks and whether it means expansion and new jobs at its Dartford factory, it is a positive sign amid a UK motor industry where demand is generally flat. The firm's business derives from variations on the highly successfully Caterham 7, which has a strong following internationally as a light and inexpensive track car as well as a road-going fun car.

But the original Lotus design dates from 1957. Caterham bought the production rights in 1973 from Colin Chapman, the car's designer and Lotus founder. Caterham made a notable effort to break away from reliance on the Seven by producing the Caterham 21 in 1994 as a stylish contrast from the bug-eyed Seven, but it was largely the same beneath the body and just 48 were made.

Though it has since gained some cult status, Caterham will hope for rather more from its belated successor. In the meantime, arguably the best known Caterham 7 in the world has made its final bow. The Caterham Superlight R500 in which Top Gear's 'tame racing driver' the Stig embarrassed many far more expensive supercars recently went on display at Marks and Spencer's Bluewater store, close to Caterham's production site. It was used to promote the M&S range of remote control R500s, which includes the Stig's colour scheme (pictured).

Caterham Cars' marketing manager, James Drake, said: "The white and orange R500 has already claimed its place in motoring history. It's worked hard since the new R500 was launched in 2008 and we feel it's now time to let it have a rest. It will still be available as a static display car, but its hard driving days are over."

Bank chief's Kent connection

NATWEST has appointed a new chief for its branches across Kent.

And as the new regional director, Maria Fisher is no stranger to the county, having started her NatWest career in Gravesend in 1984, progressed to her first management role in Sidcup and, most recently, been senior bank manager at Orpington.

She now heads 68 branches and 12 senior bank managers across the region, with a brief to focus on customer service levels and community projects, in line with the NatWest Customer Charter commitments.

Maria, who lives in Dartford with husband Tim and daughter Hannah, said: "I'm delighted to be at the helm of the NatWest branch network across Kent and looking forward to the opportunities this role will bring."

AT HELM: Maria Fisher

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County's big day out has become weekend break

TOURISM champion Visit Kent has announced an expansion of its annual tourism, leisure and hospitality weekend showcase staged earlier this year.

And the clearest sign of its new status is a change from being the Kent Big Day Out to Kent Big Weekend Out, to be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 26-27, next year.

This year's event, also in March, attracted 128 organisations – from castles, stately homes and steam trains to performance arts workshops and theatres – which offered 18,000 free tickets online to residents. Ninety per cent of visitors interviewed responded by saying that they would recommend their chosen attraction to friends and family.

"This is such a popular event showcasing our tourism businesses to local people that we have decided to spread it over two days to enable more attractions to take part and more residents to visit," said Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive of Visit Kent.

She added that her organisation had also reviewed its IT systems for the event, which were overloaded this year by sheer demand for free tickets: "We have decided to follow in the footsteps of such popular ticket events as Strictly Come Dancing and Wimbledon.

"We will put details of all the participating attractions and destinations on a dedicated website and people will be able to register where they would like to visit and when.

"The site will be open for business over a period to avoid a rush to log on at any one time. Once ticket registration has finished, we will hold a ballot for any attractions that have been oversubscribed. As a result, people will only receive tickets for attractions they really want to visit."

It will be the fifth event of its kind staged by Visit Kent to take advantage of word-of-mouth marketing and the importance of personal recommendations to visitors in the run-up to the London 2012 Olympics. Each year has seen more businesses taking part, offering more free tickets to local people.

Visit Kent research had shown many visitors to the county stay with friends and family and rely on them for advice on the best places to see and experiences to enjoy. Similarly, many other visitors rely on the people they meet during their travels or working in hotels and guesthouses for recommendations.

SHOWCASE: Sandra Matthews-Marsh

Mrs Matthews-Marsh said: "Attractions develop and new destinations open and often the people living on their doorstep are the last to explore them. The Kent Big Weekend, which offers the opportunity for residents to obtain two free tickets per household with a Kent postcode, is a great way to let people discover all the new displays to be seen and experiences to be enjoyed."

Tourism, leisure and hospitality businesses can participate on just one or both days of the Big Weekend, or offer tickets for an alternative date if they open later in the season.

Visit www.visitkentbusiness.co.uk or call 01622 696936/696935 for more information.

Say cheese and pick up award

MACARONI cheese probably doesn't make headlines on a weekly basis – but it can enjoy its moment in the sun now.

Because courtesy of an Ashford-based frozen ready meals manufacturer, it is now of an award-winning standard. Millifoods overcame national competition from rival food firms to win gold for its children's macaroni cheese at the annual Excellence in Food and Drinks Awards in London.

AWARD: Stephen Drew of Millifoods

Produced exclusively for BHS customer restaurants, this perennially popular dish was developed for the retailer following demand from parents for a child-sized portion.

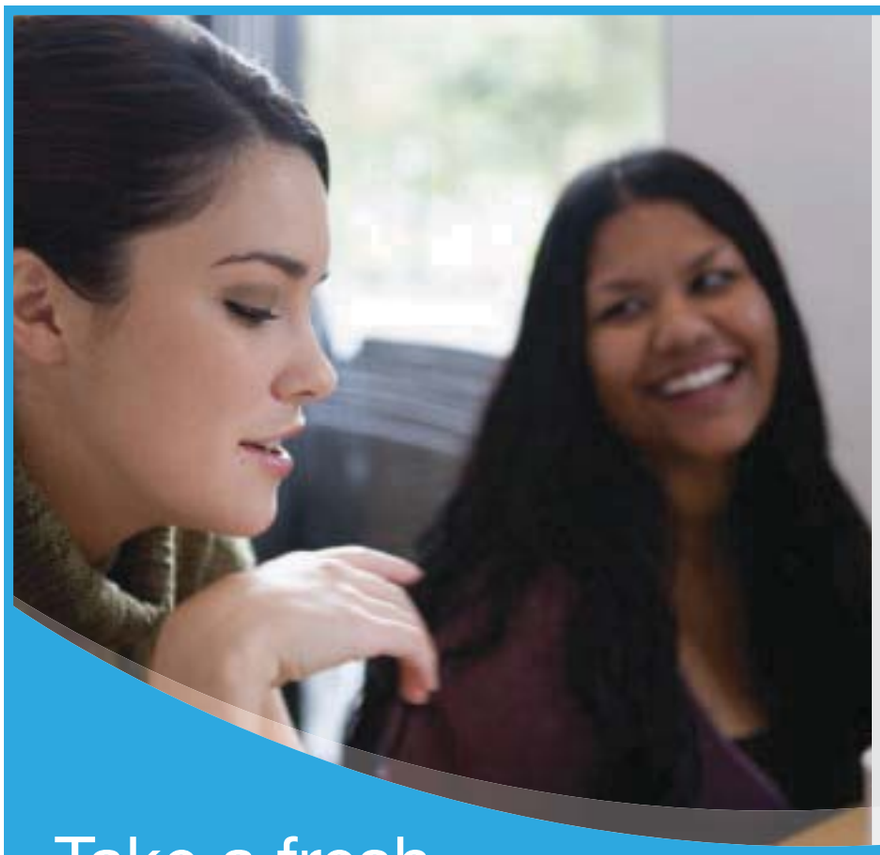
The recipe, which follows strict government guidelines on children's meals, including low salt, no added colours, additives or homogenised fats, proved an instant hit at the stores.

Stephen Drew, Millifoods' managing director, said: "We're thrilled to win another gold award at one of the top national food competitions, beating short listed Pasta King and Bernard Matthews Food Service.

"We're told the children who helped judge the entries ate every morsel of our macaroni cheese and agreed it was the tastiest dish.

"Sourcing the right ingredients, keeping to strict government guidelines and developing the best flavour to appeal to children is of paramount importance in all our recipes for this section of the market.

"It's great to see we deliver that bit extra in terms of taste and appearance for customers."



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Timeline

KOS Media sport takes a look at the highlights of all the sporting action from the last 50 years

1960 — 50 YEARS AGO: ONE of Kent's biggest boxing events of the year turned into a fiasco when Margate ABC's opponents Napier sent just six fighters to the Winter Gardens.

A 17-bout contest had been scheduled but the evening descended into farce when the London club sent just six fighters, including two ringers from Hammersmith and two who subsequently refused to fight, claiming "unfair match-making."

Another London fighter claimed the £4 prize was too small and yet another said the local judges were biased.

A half-full theatre had to make do with an improvised card made up of fights between local fighters.

Napier's George Osmond sympathised with the home club, saying: "I was guaranteed 19 boys to come down to Margate and I didn't get them. There will be a row when I get back."

1985 — 25 YEARS AGO: GILLINGHAM were accused of lying about the size of the crowd at Priestfield for their FA Cup tie with Bognor Regis.

Rocks' chairman Jack Pearce said: "Gillingham want to get their turnstiles checked," after watching his side suffer a 6-1 thrashing in their second round tie.

The official attendance was put at 4,228, with the Rocks earning £4,742 of receipts of £12,274.

Gillingham angrily refuted the allegations, with secretary Richard Dennison saying: "What he is saying is a very serious allegation. He is quite welcome to look at the books."

Calls for Barry Fry to by sacked as manager of Maidstone United intensified after the Stones lost 3-0 away to Plymouth in the FA Cup, the low point in a dismal display coming when Colin Barnes had a penalty saved by Argyle goalkeeper Geoff Crudgington.

2000 — 10 YEARS AGO: JOHNNY Armour was crowned WBU World Bantamweight champion after a brutal fight with Bethnal Green's Francis Ampofo at the Elephant & Castle in London.

The Chatham boxer won a thrilling encounter after being forced to rethink his tactics when Ampofo landed a series of blows on him in round five, causing two cuts.

Ampofo tried to exploit the wounds, but Armour retaliated with a blood and thunder approach in the later rounds to win on points.

In football, Gillingham clinched a much-needed win when they thrashed Preston 4-0, Carl Asaba scoring twice to end a run of three consecutive defeats.

Trio's Euro gold rush

Cross-country runners top rostrum for GB at championships in Portugal

By **TOM HOWARD**

THREE aspiring Kent athletes collected gold medals at last weekend's European Cross Country Championships in Portugal.

The tournament, held in Albufeira last Sunday, brought together Europe's best cross-country athletes and once again Great Britain shone.

The county was also well represented with Maidstone's Natalie Gray helping the women's under-23s to team gold and the Tonbridge Athletic Club duo of Robbie Farnham-Rose and Andy Combs doing the same in the under-20 category.

Talented

Tonbridge AC, who have produced a number of talented cross-country runners in the past, continue to show they are one of the leading clubs in the country with Combs finishing 22nd and 16-year-old Farnham Rose crossing the line in 46th place.

The pair were part of a Great Britain squad which swept their way to gold, finishing 12 points ahead of Portugal.

As a result of the performance, the pair have been invited to race against some of the world's best cross-country runners, including Great Britain star Mo Farah at the Great Edinburgh International Cross Country on January 8.

Tonbridge coach Mark Hookway said: "It was a great experience for both of them. Andy was happy as he was the fourth man home and scored points for Great Britain. Robbie felt he could have run better, but he finished in the top half of the field and is upbeat.

"I think Robbie has put himself on the radar of the selectors now, while Andy moves up to the senior category due to his age.

"Mixing with higher competition and senior athletes like Mo Farah will also be a great experience for them."

Farnham-Rose has been earmarked as a potential talent after being selected to take part in Dame Kelly Holmes' Future Stars Mentoring and Education programme at Loughborough last week.

In the women's category, Natalie Gray knew what to expect after helping the Great Britain under-23 squad to gold last year in Dublin. The 22-year-old Medway & Maidstone athlete eclipsed her 18th-placed finish in 2009 by becoming the second Brit home in seventh place. The Great Britain team clinched gold by finishing two points ahead of Russia.

Gray, a double Kent Cross Country champion, was pleased to have been part of the team that scooped gold, and said the improvement she has made in the 12 months has altered her mindset in regard to qualifying for either the 5,000 or 10,000 metres at the London 2012 Olympics.

She said: "Obviously I'm pleased to win gold but we thought we would have a real chance before the race. I didn't have the best preparation with the long haul flight from America so I think I could have been quicker.

"I can build on this and making the 2012 Olympics was an aspiration, but if I keep improving like I have then my chances become realistic."

Elsewhere, Blackheath & Bromley athlete Michael Skinner has been selected to represent England at this weekend's International Cross Country meeting in Brussels, Belgium.

WINNERS: Andy Combs (left) and Robbie Farnham-Rose (right) at the European Championships, and Natalie Gray (far left) who scooped gold with the under-23 team
Gray Picture: IGOR KUPCO

Brooking in praise for £400,000 football facilities

NEW FOOTBALL facilities in Kent have been heavily praised by Sir Trevor Brooking as a blueprint for the rest of the country.

The Football Association's director of football development was the guest of honour as two state-of-the-art mini soccer pitches were opened in Dartford.

The £400,000 project is part of a wide range of facilities at Princes Park open to the local community which have been funded through a combination of the Football Foundation and Dartford council.

The lack of requirement for councils to build sports facilities is a source of frustration for Brooking, but the West Ham legend was delighted to see what had been achieved in Dartford.

He said: "Unfortunately in this country local authorities don't have any statutory requirements to put in sports facilities so when they're tight for money they cut them. They don't understand the wider benefit that sport plays with developing youngsters, cutting crime, etc. It's good you can get a scheme like this because you can use it as an example across the country."

Picture: KENT FA

OPENING DAY: West Ham legend Sir Trevor Brooking on a visit to Kent last week

Significant grass-roots plans were part of England's bid for the 2018 World Cup. Despite losing out to Russia earlier this month, Brooking believes the prospect of a Great Britain team competing at the Olympics for the first time in more than 50 years at the London Games could provide just as big a fillip.

He said: "It's massive, it will be bigger than anyone anticipates, so we have a great opportunity, almost much quicker than anybody would have imagined, to have an exciting time for men, women and all the youngsters to watch it and have a legacy afterwards. We've got to try and capitalise on that."

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Caprice in seventh heaven as England top the World Series

By STEVE TERVET

ENGLAND sevens player Dan Caprice will finish the year at the top of the World Series and the Kent-born wing insists his side now fear none of their rivals.

Caprice played a pivotal role as England reached the final of last weekend's event in George, South Africa, where they moved to the head of the rankings despite a last-gasp defeat to New Zealand.

The 21-year-old scored in a 22-12 semi-final win over reigning champions Samoa, a week after England lifted the trophy at the opening round of the series in Dubai.

Caprice, a former Sevenoaks schoolboy, was part of the England squad which finished fifth in last season's competition and he sees no reason why they cannot maintain their blistering start to the new campaign.

Notable

"It was great to get to another final because winning becomes a habit," he said.

"To come so close was really disappointing, but our aim is to win the World Series and we're on course for that.

"To be that disappointed to lose shows something about our character and the fact we're looking to be in every final, rather than the quarters or semis like last year."

Caprice, born in Chatham, has become central to England's plans and he says the experience of taking such notable scalps will be a huge boost both for him and the team.

He said: "On the way to the Dubai final we beat the top four teams on the bounce and we've now beaten South Africa.

"It takes the gloss off the other teams when you beat them, so there's nothing for us to fear.

"It hasn't really sunk in yet, it's the first time I've been in a number one team and even in sevens it's a big achievement to be knocking over the big nations."

Caprice returns to World Series action with England in February, as they travel to New Zealand and the United States looking to cement their tag of title contenders.

Picture: GETTY IMAGES

RUNNING MAN: Dan Caprice has played a pivotal role in England's winning streak

Picture: DREYER REINBOLD RACING

WAIT: Mike Conway has no plans for 2011

Conway unfazed as talks over new contract continue

INDYCAR driver Mike Conway is yet to confirm his plans for the 2011 season, but is not about to hit the panic button.

The Sevenoaks racer miraculously escaped a 220mph crash at the prestigious Indianapolis 500 race in May and is keen to return to the American series next season, but is yet to agree a new deal.

The 27-year-old, who survived the horrific accident with fractures to his leg and back, met with the Dreyer Reinbold team, his employers for the last two seasons, to discuss a deal for next year. Despite receiving positive feedback a deal has not been forthcoming, although the Indianapolis-based team have already signed up Conway's team-mate from last year, Justin Wilson.

Conway said: "The meeting was good, but nothing has been signed yet. Obviously I would have liked to have something sorted before the turn of the year but, for example, last year we didn't have anything agreed until mid-February. I'm still feeling confident.

"It is difficult for drivers at this time of the year, but you get used to it. We are just going to keep working on sponsorship budget and talking to people."

Conway doesn't have any tests lined up as of yet, which is prolonging his return to any form of racing. He is yet to step into the cockpit of an Indycar since the accident earlier this year.

Cash boost will benefit grass-roots coaching

Picture: ADY KERRY

BENEFITING: Nat Seymour

GYMNASTICS coaches in Kent could be given fresh resources in their search for the next Beth Tweddle after the sport received a large cash boost in a recent spending review.

As one of six summer Olympic sports to be financially rewarded by UK Sport for strong performances, gymnastics will receive an extra £625,000 ahead of the London 2012 Games.

With several Kent youngsters already competing internationally and participation levels up at several clubs, the county's head of gymnastics welcomed the funding and hinted at just how useful the money could prove.

Geoff Turner, chairman of the Kent Gymnastics executive committee, said: "We've had great successes in gymnastics, but we need more money at grass-roots level to produce more than one Beth Tweddle every five years.

"We need a lot more of them and there's no reason why they shouldn't be coming from Kent.

"There are lots of coaches within Kent who work full-time and they then do four hours' coaching four or five times a week.

"They can't afford to give up their jobs, but the funding could enable people to become full-time coaches."

Alongside the likes of Courtney Tulloch, from Maidstone's Pegasus Gymnastics Club, another of the county's sports personalities in line to benefit from the funding short-term is Canterbury hockey player Nat Seymour. The defender has been on England's centralised training programme at Bisham Abbey for more than a year, and with hockey's funding improved by £1 million over the next two years, her place on the scheme could be further cemented.

The other sports handed bonuses in last week's review were boxing, canoeing, rowing and taekwondo.

Picture: HELEN COOPER

HANG TOUGH: Courtney Tulloch

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Kent sport stars have their say on twitter

As part of our weekly series, we bring you the pick of the week's tweets from the county's sports stars

ALL EYES will be on Perth this weekend to see if England can retain the Ashes ahead of schedule.

Despite no doubt being well aware how it is perilous to underestimate the Australians, Kent skipper Rob Key could not resist a dig ahead of the third Test.

@robkey612: "At the kent ccc helping out with the silly sale of anything cricket get urself down if u need some kit for the summer. Or just in case ur a spinner with an Aussie passport and u get the call to play at Sydney or Melbourne in the ashes."

Key was strangely quiet on X Factor final night, so our analysis is brought to you by his Kent team-mate Geraint Jones, who claims he is under the impression he was backing Matt Cardle all along.

@Gojones623: "Told you all, picked him week 1. Does that mean I can have a percentage of his earnings for the next year?"

There are only a few sleeps left until Christmas so 'tis the season to be jolly, unless you're Gillingham defender Matt 'Scrooge' Lawrence.

@mattyjlawrence: "Writing Xmas cards!! If you don't get one it's not because I forgot....it's because I couldn't be arsed to send you one. Merry xmas!"

Former England rugby captain and Tunbridge Wells schoolboy Martin Corry is normally all business in his Tweets, but Saracens coach Brendan Venter's bizarre post-match interview raised a chuckle.

@Martin_Corry: "Not the greatest rugby weekend but Venters interview put a smile on my face. Nuts."

But there is no contest for oddest Tweet of the week, which has to go to @damekellyholmes: "I have damaged a hovercraft! Oops."

Follow us at www.twitter.com/kentsport for the latest sports news from around the county

Picture: ADY KERRY

BIG HIT: Dani Masters made a good start

Kent ladies battle to claim tour card

D-DAY has arrived for the county's top two women golfers as they attempt to regain their place on the Ladies European Tour (LET) for next season.

After successfully negotiating four rounds of pre-qualifying earlier this month, Danielle Masters and Claire Aitken are in a field of 93 players battling for success in final qualifying.

The gruelling tournament is the longest in the calendar and is played over 90 holes, beginning last Wednesday. At the end of Saturday's fourth round the field will be trimmed to 50, who contest Sunday's final round.

The top 30 will be rewarded with an exemption status which would allow them to play in most LET events next season, while those finishing 31st to 50th would have limited access.

Maidstone's Masters, who lost her card in 2008 through injury, made the better start of the pair and was inside the top 50 after the first two rounds.

Aitken, from Gravesend, needed a stronger finish heading into the weekend to reach the final round after a sluggish opening.

Log on to www.kentsport.co.uk to follow their progress.

ALL FUN AND GAMES: Kent coach Paul Farbrace (below) feels the fixture scheduling for both players and supporters is 'terrible'
Pictures: ADY KERRY

2011 FIXTURES

DATE	OPPONENTS	COMPETITION
April 08	Essex, Chelmsford	LVCC 2
April 14	Northamptonshire, Northampton	LVCC 2
April 26	**Gloucestershire, Canterbury**	**LVCC 2**
May 01	**Worcestershire, Canterbury**	**40L**
May 02	Middlesex, Lord's	40L
May 04	**Northamptonshire, Canterbury**	**LVCC 2**
May 08	**Yorkshire, Canterbury**	**40L**
May 10	Glamorgan, SWALEC Stadium	LVCC 2
May 15	Yorkshire, Headingley Carnegie	40L
May 18	**Loughboro MCCU, Canterbury**	**UNI**
May 22	**Sussex, Canterbury**	**40L**
May 24	**Derbyshire, Canterbury**	**LVCC 2**
May 29	**Leicestershire, Tunbridge Wells**	**LVCC 2**
June 03	**Somerset, Tunbridge Wells**	**T20**
June 05	**Hampshire, Tunbridge Wells**	**T20**
June 10	Somerset, Taunton	T20
June 11	Glamorgan, SWALEC Stadium	T20 (F)
June 15	**Gloucestershire, Beckenham**	**T20**
June 17	Sussex, Hove	T20 (F)
June 18	**Middlesex, Canterbury**	**T20 (F)**
June 19	Middlesex, Lord's	LVCC 2
June 24	Middlesex, Uxbridge	T20
June 26	**Surrey, Beckenham**	**T20**
June 30	Hampshire, Rose Bowl	T20 (F)
July 01	**Essex, Canterbury**	**T20 (F)**
July 03	**Glamorgan, Canterbury**	**T20**
July 06	Gloucestershire, Bristol	T20
July 08	**Sussex, Canterbury**	**T20 (F)**
July 10	Surrey, Brit Oval	LVCC 2
July 14	Surrey, Brit Oval	T20 (F)
July 15	Essex, Chelmsford	T20 (F)
July 17	Netherlands, TBC	40L
July 20	Gloucestershire, Cheltenham	LVCC 2
July 24	Derbyshire, Derby	40L
July 31	Worcestershire, New Road	40L
August 02	Leicestershire, Grace Road	LVCC 2
August 10	Surrey, Canterbury	LVCC 2 CCW
August 14	**Netherlands, Canterbury**	**40L CCW**
August 16	**Middlesex, Canterbury**	**40L (F)**
August 17	**Middlesex, Canterbury**	**LVCC 2**
August 23	Sussex, Hove	40L (F)
August 26	**India, Canterbury**	**TOM 1 (F)**
August 27	Edgbaston	T20 Final
August 29	**Derbyshire, Canterbury**	**40L**
August 31	**Essex, Canterbury**	**LVCC 2**
September 07	Derbyshire, Derby	LVCC 2
September 12	**Glamorgan, Canterbury**	**LVCC 2**
September 17	Lord's	40L Final

KEY **HOME GAMES (F) FLOODLIT**

Farbrace concerned over schedule that's 'not right for cricket'

By **GLENN PEARSON**

KENT head coach Paul Farbrace has labelled the club's 2011 fixture schedule released last week as "terrible" and "haphazard" for both players and spectators of county cricket.

Highlights for next season include a one-day game with India - which will be one of five games under the new floodlights at St Lawrence - trips to Lord's and an extra Friends Provident t20 fixture added to the Tunbridge Wells Festival.

However, with the England and Wales Cricket Board not looking to reduce the county schedule until the 2012 season, it means Kent and other counties face another summer travelling long distances and playing back-to-back fixtures.

Kent's cricketers will also have to play a championship game in the middle of next season's t20 tournament, which is usually hugely unpopular with the players, while the 'home' game at the Oval – trialled last year – is not on next year's schedule.

For Farbrace, who voiced his concerns last summer when he had just a handful of days to work with his players in the first three months of the season, it's going to be another long hard season.

"I think [the fixtures] are terrible," he said.

"The programming for players, spectators and members is very poor from the point of view that you don't know when championship cricket starts; it's too haphazard, the amount of cricket they are trying to cram in is ridiculous.

"We have to play a championship game and two t20's back to back, and I think that's a bit much.

"It's great we are going to have floodlights and we will be playing Twenty20 evening games at Canterbury and hopefully that will attract people in, but what isn't exciting from a players' and spectators' point of view is that it's so congested with so much cricket.

"We've then got seven or eight weeks without cricket at Canterbury. It really doesn't allow for good preparation or practice."

The club's coach also warned the standard of t20 cricket is likely to diminish as a result of back-to-back games that come with late finishes, and believes the 16-game Clydesdale Bank 40 competition is too long.

"Unicorns, Scotland and Holland; I would take them out of the fixture programme and reduce the games by two in CB40," Farbrace said. "You want to keep it a quality product that people want to come and watch and the danger is that it's so condensed that you end up with less intensity.

"We play a four-day game at the Oval (July 10), followed by a t20 floodlit game at the Oval the next day, followed by a t20 floodlit game at Chelmsford the next day.

"The following day we are on a bus to Holland to play a 40-over game, then the next day we travel to Cheltenham to play a four-day game. That cannot be right for cricket.

"The intensity has to suffer somewhere in that 12-day window, it's impossible to maintain standards."

SEVERAL jobs at Kent County Cricket Club are to be made redundant.

While explaining that the club were going through a consultation process, chief executive Jamie Clifford would not say how many jobs are under threat.

He said: "There are individuals at risk of redundancy and we are going through that process. The club will not be commenting on that process as that would not be fair to those involved. There is no timetable set, it will run its course."

The club also went through a similar process in December 2008 when eight staff were made redundant.

A change of goal

Hard lessons gave Murdoch new direction

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

IF GILLINGHAM'S performances ever give Andy Hessenthaler cause to question his return to Priestfield, a quick chat with the newest member of the club's coaching staff should be enough to convince him how fortunate he is.

The Gills' early season struggles saw the manager come under pressure from supporters and the media alike to turn around the club's fortunes. But as low as the Gills have sunk at times this season, it pales into comparison with the challenges faced by their new goalkeeping coach during his first, and only, stint as a full-time manager.

As baptisms of fire go, Stuart Murdoch's reign as the last manager of Wimbledon was as tough as it gets.

Unique

With a front row seat as the club disintegrated around the players, his tenure spanned the troubled times which saw the Dons leave Selhurst Park and controversially move 60 miles north to Milton Keynes.

"I look now at clubs going into administration and it's an everyday occurrence, but ours was a totally unique situation," he said.

"It was one of the first administrations and a different one to everybody else because we didn't have any owners, we didn't have a ground, we didn't have anything.

"I didn't understand the pressure until I came out of it and I suddenly thought 'gosh, what went on there?' It was difficult and I've not gone back into management since.

TOUGH: Goalkeeping coach Stuart Murdoch

"I've had a couple of opportunities but have said no and stuck at goalkeeping coaching."

The lowest point came as a result of Gillingham's interest in striker Patrick Agyemang, who was sold for around £150,000 in January 2004.

Murdoch recalls: "I was phoned up at half past 12 on a Saturday having just had a team meeting to be told that Patrick couldn't play the game in the afternoon.

"It's things like that when you step back and think about it afterwards you think 'how ridiculous was that?'

"The administrator said he couldn't play, I said he was an integral part of our plans and we need to win this game.

"I said what's going to happen if I play him? 'Well, you won't be here at half past four', you have to make decisions like that and I was that close to saying 'okay, I won't be here at half past four then', but then you think you have a wife and kids and you've got to get on with it. It was all those positions you were put in that you shouldn't have been put in."

Possession

Stung by the experience, he reverted back to his former incarnation as goalkeeping coach. It has taken him to several clubs, including Norwich City and Southampton, before linking up with Hessenthaler, a friend from their days at Watford, last month.

Gills goalkeepers Alan Julian and Lance Cronin have both had runs in the first-team this season and Murdoch believes their situation has bred a useful competitive atmosphere.

He said: "The one in possession has got to fight to keep it and the one who has gone out for whatever reason has to fight to get it back. I think that's a healthy position and the pair of them appear to me to take that on board.

"Most goalkeepers are the same, wherever I've been over the years they always work hard, support each other, it's a healthy rivalry and good competition."

Pictures: DAVID BROWN

FANS SAVE DAY: Welling boss Jamie Day can continue leading his side this season

Supporters raise cash to lift Wings out of the mire

WELLING United supporters have raised more then £60,000 in a matter of eight days to save the club from possible extinction.

The Conference South side were facing a winding up order served by HMRC in August for debts of £97,000 and failure to pay the costs could have enforced administration and potential collapse. Although the club have survived courtesy of a monumental effort from supporters, owner for 47 years Barrie Hobbins says there is plenty of work to do to avoid further financial trouble.

After receiving the winding up petition, the Wings were given 14 weeks to pay off the debt and during this time the club have raised £38,000. However, supporters stumped up £64,900 to reach the £97,000 target, which was paid to HMRC on Wednesday through a loan scheme launched on December 3. Donations and the purchase of long-term season tickets by supporters also contributed to the total.

Hobbins said: "I'm delighted but it is the supporters alone that take all the credit."

The club are to form a new constitution in January which will allow supporters, who helped in the fundraising effort, a say in how Welling is to be run in the future.

Pictures: DAVID PLUMB

BUSY: Chairman Phil Sonsara (left) hopes manager Liam Daish (right) can secure contracts before Christmas

Fleet in talks with key players

CONTRACT talks are under way at Stonebridge Road as Ebbsfleet United look to secure the services of several key players before the January transfer window opens for business.

Faced with the job of building almost an entire squad from scratch over the summer, manager Liam Daish brought in several triallists on non-contract terms close to the season's start date.

The new-look side have fired the Fleet into contention for promotion back to the Conference Premier and club bosses are now working to ensure none of their prize assets walk away for nothing during the window.

Ebbsfleet chairman Phil Sonsara said: "It's down to Liam to talk to the players in question so we'll see what happens. It would give them security to know they're onboard for the rest of the season and it gives the club more stability, too, to get them signed up.

"In an ideal world, we want to get it done before Christmas because we do need to nail the players who are not on contracts."

One of the foundations for the Fleet's fine form this season has been Daish's ability to consistently select the same side and the continuity has been borne out by free-flowing, attractive performances in both league and cup.

Were any of his best players to go in January, Daish knows how much of an impact the disruption could have on his side's charge towards the top of Conference South.

"That's an agenda we have to sort out, they deserve it now and we'll see what the players want to do," he said. "They might not want to sign but I think they're enjoying themselves here, they know there's something happening and hopefully they want to be part of that."

County clubs sign up in droves for step six

THE CHANCES of a new football division being set up for next season has significantly improved after an enthusiastic response from clubs interested in joining.

Proposals to introduce a new tier at step six, which would bridge the gap between the Kent County League's Premier Division and the Kent League, hinged on enough clubs registering their interest to the Football Association (FA) by last month.

The FA announced the results to its leagues committee last week, with 28 clubs officially putting themselves forward.

Denise Richmond, Kent League chairman, was pleased with the turnout.

She said: "It's encouraging, even if only half of them can comply that would still make it a viable competition in my mind."

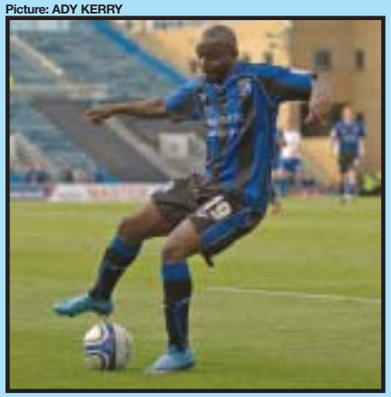
The interested clubs, who have not been named, are playing in a wide variety of leagues this season, including County League sides outside the Premier Division and teams from south east London.

All their home grounds will be inspected by independent assessors next month to determine how many of the 28 will be considered for the first intake.

Picture: DAVID MULLANEY

NEW DIVISION: Kent County League teams hope to join new tier

Picture: ADY KERRY



DECISIONS: Bruce Inkango could depart Gills

Hessenthaler giving nothing away as Gills duo await decision on contract extensions

TALKS have taken place to decide whether Gillingham will offer Danny Spiller and Bruce Inkango extensions to their short-term contracts.

Andy Hessenthaler, the club's manager, met with chairman Paul Scally on Friday to make a decision on the pair, who will be informed early next week.

Inkango's deal expired this weekend, while Spiller's runs out just before the New Year's Day clash with Stevenage Borough.

The Gills boss spoke to the duo earlier this week, urging them to focus on yesterday's home game with Chesterfield, but the club cannot delay their decision any longer.

Poor form and a lengthy injury list in the first half of the season has seen the Gills dip into the loan market for several players, which have exceeded the club's wage budget.

It could impact on whether any deals are forthcoming, but Hessenthaler gave nothing away before the meeting.

He said: "Both players want to know, especially Bruce because he's come from France and he'll want to know where he's at for Christmas. It's important he knows, and for Danny's peace of mind whether he's here to the end of the season or, if in the next week or 10 days, he'll have to look for another club.

"Whichever way it goes it's not an easy situation, I've got to say that."

Spiller told Kent on Sunday last week he felt his performances this season had done enough to justify a longer deal. The midfielder, in his second spell at the club, started his 100th league game for the Gills last weekend and has featured in 16 of their 19 league games so far.

Inkango has made less of an impact and five of his six appearances have come as a late substitute.

The French winger's solitary start came in the goalless draw against Southend in September.

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By **STEVE TERVET**

MAIDSTONE Rugby Club have been charged with failing to fully investigate the deliberate gouge which blinded an opposition player in one eye, in what is set to become a test case for the sport.

Gravesend player Clarence Harding was left blinded in a Kent Cup tie between the two sides at The Mote on January 17.

An investigation into the incident was then launched by the police, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and Maidstone.

However, the police found insufficient evidence to bring charges against any player, while Maidstone's internal investigation also found no-one guilty of the incident.

An RFU disciplinary hearing last month cleared Maidstone player Matt Iles of injuring Harding, but they ruled it had been a deliberate gouge, rather than a freak accident, which had cost the Gravesend player the sight in his right eye.

After lengthy deliberations, which included taking independent advice from a leading QC, the union this week brought two charges against Maidstone having been unable to identify the individual who committed the offence.

For the RFU to charge a club collectively for the actions of one player is very rare, but there is even less history when it comes to a club accused of not properly investigating an incident of this nature.

With the outcome of the January hearing likely to set a precedent for this type of case, the disciplinary panel are not bound by prescribed sanctions and any punishment handed down to Maidstone will be at their discretion.

The first charge details that: "An unidentified player or players of Maidstone RFC committed a serious and deliberate act of foul play which caused an opponent to lose the sight in his right eye," while the second states: "Maidstone RFC have failed to investigate fully an allegation of serious foul play committed by one of the club's players which resulted in an opposition player losing the sight of his right eye."

The club have been summoned to a further disciplinary hearing at the London Bloomsbury Holiday Inn on January 12, where a three-man panel will determine their fate.

Maidstone did not expel or suspend any player following the incident and they are set to plead not guilty at the next hearing, having released a statement on Thursday.

It read: "In respect of any enquiries regarding the RFU detailing the next hearing relating to the alleged eye-gouging, Maidstone Rugby deny all allegations against it, and will make no further comment until the conclusion of the hearing."

Maidstone charged with failure to fully investigate attack that blinded player

VICTIM: Former Gravesend number eight Clarence Harding shows his horrific injury

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